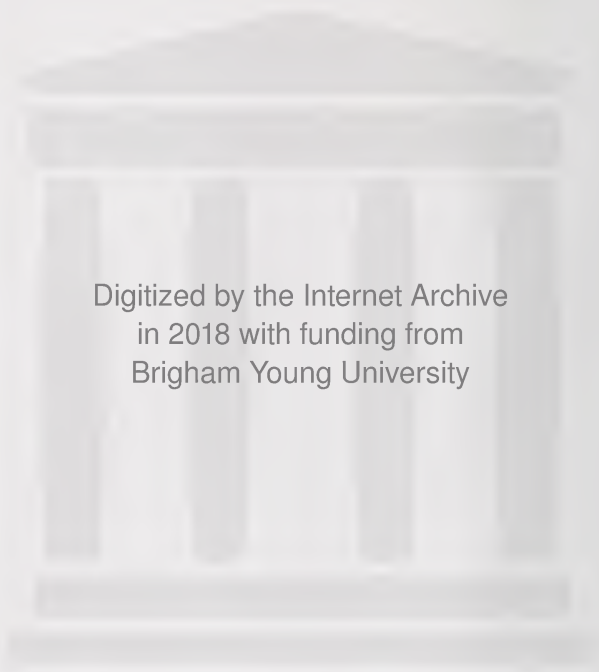




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Stirring Adventures  
“Up The Missouri”

WITH

LEWIS AND CLARKE

Pioneers of the Great Northwest



By

PAUL ALLEN

THE SUPERIOR PRINTING COMPANY  
AKRON, OHIO

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## PREFACE

THE History of the Expedition of Captains Lewis and Clarke, during the years 1804, 1805, and 1806, by order of the Government of the United States, is the first narrative which diffused widely at that time a knowledge of the so-called Oregon Territory, and the intermediate country from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains. It presents a description of a new and magnificent region, unvisited before by white men, with its barbarous tribes, their character and habits, and abounding in herds of buffalo, deer, and antelope, outnumbering the human tenants of the land. The Exposition held at Portland, Oregon, during the year of 1905, in commemoration of the great achievements attained by the Lewis and Clarke Expedition did surely lend a renewed interest to their Journal. The work being now nearly out of print, it seemed to the publishers a suitable time to put forth a new edition of the Journal of Lewis and Clarke, pruned of unimportant details, with a sketch of the progress of maritime discovery on the Pacific coast, and a summary account of earlier attempts to penetrate this vast western wilderness.

This Journal must ever retain a high degree of interest, as the account of the first voyage made by Indian or white man, in boats or canoes, stemming the current and rapids of the Missouri by the aid of sails, oars, pole and towline, from the point where its

## PREFACE

waters discharge themselves into the Mississippi to its sources in the Rocky Mountains. They and their party were also the first white men who, after crossing the mountains, discovered the head-waters of the Columbia River, and where borne by its rapid current to the bay where its tumultuous waters meet the stormy tides of the Pacific.

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# LEWIS AND CLARKE'S EXPEDITION UP THE MISSOURI

## CHAPTER I.

Party composing the Expedition.—Their Departure.—Cave near Osage Woman River.—Grand Osage River.—Osage Indians.—Curious traditional Account of their Origin.—The Missouris.—Snake Bluffs.—Kansas River.—Kansas Indians.—The Nodawa River.—The Nemahaw, and Mounds on its Banks.—Party afflicted with Boils.—Platte River.

THE preparations for the expedition were completed, and the party selected before the close of 1803. Capt. Lewis designed to winter at Le Charrette, the highest settlement on the Missouri; but the Spanish commandant of Louisiana not having received official notice of the transfer of the province to the United States, he wintered at the mouth of Wood River, on the east side of the Mississippi, without the jurisdiction of the Spanish authorities.

"The party consisted of nine young men from Kentucky, fourteen soldiers of the United States army, who volunteered their services, two French watermen (an interpreter and hunter), and a black servant belonging to Captain Clarke. All these, except the last, were enlisted to serve as privates during the expedition, and three sergeants appointed from among them



by the captains. In addition to these were engaged a corporal and six soldiers, and nine watermen, to accompany the expedition as far as the Mandan nation, in order to assist in carrying the stores or repelling an attack, which was most to be apprehended between Wood River and that tribe. The necessary stores were subdivided into seven bales and one box, containing a small portion of each article in case of accident. They consisted of a great variety of clothing, working utensils. locks, flints, powder, ball, and articles of the greatest use. To these were added fourteen bales and one box of Indian presents, distributed in the same manner, and composed of richly-laced coats and other articles of dress, medals, flags, knives, and tomahawks for the chiefs; ornaments of different kinds, particularly beads, looking-glasses, handkerchiefs, paints and generally such articles as were deemed best calculated for the taste of the Indians. The party was to embark on board of three boats: the first was a keel-boat fifty-five feet long, drawing three feet water, carrying one large square-sail and twenty-two oars; a deck of ten feet in the bow and stern formed a forecastle and cabin, while the middle was covered by lockers, which might be raised so as to form a breast work in case of attack. This was accompanied by two pirogues or open boats, one of six and the other of seven oars. Two horses were at the same time to be led along the banks of the river, for the purpose of bringing home game, or hunting in case of scarcity."

The party left their encampment at the mouth of Wood River on Monday, the 14th of May, 1804, and on the morning of the 16th reached St. Charles, a



town 21 miles up the Missouri. Captain Lewis, who had been detained at St. Louis, joined them at this place, and on the 21st of May they proceeded on their voyage. Passing Osage Woman River on the 23d, about a mile and a half beyond its mouth, they saw "a large cave on the south side, at the foot of cliffs nearly three hundred feet high, overhanging the water, which becomes very swift at this place. The cave is one hundred and twenty feet wide, forty feet deep and twenty high: it is known by the name of the Tavern among the traders, who have written their names on the rock, and painted some images, which command the homage of the Indians and French."

On the 25th they stopped for the night at La Charrette Creek, 68 miles from the mouth of the Missouri, and near which was a small village of seven poor families, the last establishment of whites on that river. In the afternoon of the 31st of May they received information that the Indians had committed to the flames a letter announcing the cession of Louisiana, and that they would not believe the Americans had come in possession of the country. On the 1st of June the boats arrived at the mouth of the Grand Osage River, 133 miles up the Missouri, which is here 875 yards wide, and the breadth of the Osage 397 yards.

"The Osage River empties itself into the Missouri at one hundred and thirty-three miles' distance from the mouth of the latter river. It gives or owes its name to a nation inhabiting its banks at a considerable distance from this place. Their present name, however, seems to have originated from the French traders, for both among themselves and their neigh-

hours they are called the Wasbashes. They number between twelve and thirteen hundred warriors, and consist of three tribes: the Great Osages, of about five hundred warriors, living in a village on the south bank of the river; the Little Osages, of nearly half that number, residing at the distance of six miles from them; and the Arkansaw band, a colony of Osages, of six hundred warriors, who left them some years ago, under the command of a chief called the Bigfoot, and settled on the Vermillion River, a branch of the Arkansaw. In person the Osages are among the largest and best-formed Indians, and are said to possess fine military capacities; but, residing as they do in villages, and having made considerable advance in agriculture, they seem less addicted to war than their northern neighbours, to whom the use of rifles gives a great superiority. Among the peculiarities of this people, there is nothing more remarkable than the tradition relative to their origin. According to universal belief, the founder of the nation was a snail, passing a quiet existence along the banks of the Osage, till a high flood swept him down to the Missouri, and left him exposed on the shore. The heat of the sun at length ripened him into a man; but with the change of his nature he had not forgotten his native seat on the Osage, towards which he immediately bent his way. He was, however, soon overtaken by hunger and fatigue, when, happily, the Great Spirit appeared, and, giving him a bow and arrow, showed him how to kill and cook deer, and cover himself with the skin. He then proceeded to his original residence; but as he approached the river he was met by a beaver, who inquired haughtily who he was, and by what authority

he came to disturb his possession. The Osage answered that the river was his own, for he had once lived on its borders. As they stood disputing, the daughter of the beaver came, and having, by her entreaties, reconciled her father to this young stranger, it was proposed that the Osage should marry the young beaver, and share with her family the enjoyment of the river. The Osage readily consented, and from this happy union there soon came the village and the nation of the Wasbashes, or Osages, who have ever since preserved a pious reverence for their ancestors, abstaining from the chase of the beaver, because in killing that animal they killed a brother of the Osage. Of late years, however, since the trade with the whites has rendered beaver-skins more valuable, the sanctity of these maternal relations has been visibly reduced, and the poor animals have nearly lost all the privileges of kindred."

On the 3d of June they continued their voyage, and successively passed the Little and Big Manitou Creeks (on the latter of which they found some salt-licks), Good Woman River, and Mine River. "Little Manitou Creek takes its name from a strange figure resembling the bust of a man, with the horns of a stag, painted on a projecting rock, which may represent some spirit or deity." Canoes and rafts were occasionally met, descending with furs and buffalo tallow from distant points of the Missouri, Kansas, and Platte Rivers, under the guidance of hunters, who had sought their game in the neighbourhood of those streams. Captain Lewis was so fortunate as to engage one of them, a M. Durion, who had lived with the Sioux twenty years, to accompany him to that nation.

“On the 13th,” continues the narrative, “we passed, at between four and five miles, a bend of the river, and two creeks on the north, called the Round Bend Creeks. Between these two creeks is the prairie in which once stood the ancient village of the Missouri. Of this village there remains no vestige, nor is there anything to recall this great and numerous nation, except a feeble remnant of about thirty families. They were driven from their original seats by the invasions of the Sauks and other Indians from the Mississippi (who destroyed at this village two hundred of them in one contest), and sought refuge near the Little Osage, on the other side of the river. The encroachment of the same enemies forced, about thirty years since, both these nations from the banks of the Missouri. A few retired with the Osages, and the remainder found an asylum on the River Platte, among the Ottoes, who are themselves declining. Opposite the plain there was an island and a French fort, but there is now no appearance of either, the successive inundations having probably washed them away, as the willow island, which is in the situation described by Du Pratz, is small and of recent formation. Five miles from this place is the mouth of Grand River, where we encamped. This river follows a course nearly south or southeast, and is between eighty and a hundred yards wide where it enters the Missouri, near a delightful and rich plain.” \* \* \* “At the distance of eight miles we came to some high cliffs, called the Snake Bluffs, from the numbers of that animal in the neighbourhood, and immediately above these bluffs, Snake Creek, about eighteen yards wide, on which we encamped. One of our hunters,

a half Indian, brought us an account of his having to-day passed a small lake, near which a number of deer were feeding; and in the pond he heard a snake making a guttural noise like a turkey. He fired his gun, but the noise became louder. He adds that he has heard the Indians mention this species of snake, and this story is confirmed by a Frenchman of our party." \* \* \* "We passed several islands and one creek on the south side, and encamped on the north opposite a beautiful plain, which extends as far back as the Orange River, and some miles up the Missouri. In front of our encampment are the remains of an old village of the Little Osages, situated at some distance from the river, and at the foot of a small hill. About three miles above them, in view of our camp, is the situation of the old village of the Missouris after they fled from the Sauks. The inroads of the same tribe compelled the Little Osages to retire from the Missouri a few years ago, and establish themselves near the Great Osages." \* \* \* "On the 17th we set out early, and, having come to a convenient place, at one mile's distance, for procuring timber and making oars, we occupied ourselves in that way on this and the following day. The country on the north of the river is rich and covered with timber; among which we procured the ash for oars. At two miles it changes into extensive prairies, and at seven or eight miles' distance becomes higher and waving. The prairie and high lands on the south commence more immediately on the river; the whole is well watered and provided with game, such as deer, elk, and bear. The hunters brought in a fat horse, which was probably lost by some war party, this being the crossing-place for the



Sauks, Ayauways, and Sioux, in their excursions against the Osages."

On the 25th they passed a bank of stone coal, apparently very abundant, and the next day arrived at the mouth of the Kansas, 340 miles from the Mississippi; and here the party remained two days for rest and repairs. "The River Kansas takes its rise in the plains between the Arkansaw and Platte Rivers, and pursues a course generally east till its junction with the Missouri, which is in latitude  $38^{\circ} 31' 13''$ ; here it is  $340\frac{1}{4}$  yards wide, though it is wider a short distance above the mouth. The Missouri itself is about five hundred yards in width; the point of union is low and subject to inundations for two hundred and fifty yards; it then rises a little above high-water mark, and continues so as far back as the hills. On the south of the Kansas the hills or highlands come within one mile and a half of the river; on the north of the Missouri they do not approach nearer than several miles; but on all sides the country is fine. The comparative specific gravity of the two rivers are, for the Missouri seventy-eight, the Kansas seventy-two degrees; the waters of the latter have a very disagreeable taste. \* \* \* On the banks of the Kansas reside the Indians of the same name, consisting of two villages, one at about twenty, the other forty leagues from its mouth, and amounting to about three hundred men. They once lived twenty-four leagues higher than the Kansas, on the south bank of the Missouri, and were then more numerous; but they have been reduced and banished by the Sauks and Ayauways, who, being better supplied with arms, have an advantage over the Kansas, though the latter are not less fierce and warlike

than themselves. This nation is now hunting in the plains for the buffalo, which our hunters have seen for the first time."

Departing on the 29th, they passed La Petite Rivière Platte, Turkey Creek, and Bear Medicine Island, a short distance from which they landed for the night on the 2d of July. In a valley opposite to their encampment "was situated an old village of the Kansas, between two high points of land, and on the bank of the river. About a mile in the rear of the village was a small fort, built by the French on an elevation. There are now no traces of the village, but the situation of the fort may be recognized by some remains of chimneys, and the general outline of the fortification, as well as by the fine spring which supplied it with water. The party who were stationed here were probably cut off by the Indians, as there are no accounts of them."

July 3d they passed the Isle des Vaches. The morning of the anniversary of the 4th of July was announced by the discharge of a gun, and its name was given to a creek which they passed during the day: it was also made memorable by one of the party being bitten by a snake, though the usual application of a poultice of bark and gunpowder soon cured the wound. On the 5th, near Independence Creek, they passed the ruins of another village of the Kansas, which, from the extent of its remains, must once have been a large town. Several bad sand-bars here presented themselves and on the shores there were great quantities of summer and fall grapes, berries, and wild roses. Deer were not so abundant as usual, but there were numerous tracks of elk. On the 8th the

party reached the River Nodawa, after passing Reevey's Prairie, so called from the name of a man who had been killed there, and the fine prairie of St. Michael's appearing as though it were divided into farms by the narrow strips of woodland which border the small runs falling into the river. Below the mouth of the Nodawa, besides several smaller islands, is that of Great Nodawa, more than five miles in length, containing seven or eight thousand acres of high, rich land, rarely overflowed, and one of the largest islands in the Missouri. This river is navigable for boats for some distance.

On the 11th they landed on a sand island opposite to the River Nemahaw, where they remained a day for the purpose of taking lunar observations and refreshing the party. They had now ascended the Missouri to the distance of 480 miles. "The Nemahaw empties itself into the Missouri from the south, and is eighty yards wide at the confluence, which is in lat.  $39^{\circ} 55' 56''$ . Captain Clarke ascended it in the pirogue about two miles, to the mouth of a small creek on the lower side. On going ashore he found in the level plain several artificial mounds or graves, and on the adjoining hills others of a larger size. This appearance indicates sufficiently the former population of this country, the mounds being certainly intended as tombs, the Indians of the Missouri still preserving the custom of interring the dead on high ground. From the top of the highest mound a delightful prospect presented itself: the level and extensive meadows watered by the Nemahaw, and enlivened by the few trees and shrubs skirting the borders of the river and its tributary streams; the lowland of the Missouri covered with



undulating grass, nearly five feet high, gradually rising into a second plain, where rich weeds and flowers are interspersed with copses of the Osage plum; farther back were seen small groves of trees; an abundance of grapes; the wild cherry of the Missouri, resembling our own, but larger, and growing on a small bush; and the chokecherry, which was observed for the first time. Some of the grapes gathered to-day were nearly ripe. On the south of the Nemahaw, and about a quarter of a mile from its mouth, is a cliff of freestone, in which are various inscriptions and marks made by the Indians."

On the 14th elk were seen for the first time. They passed the Nishnahbatona and Little Nemahaw Rivers, and found the former to be only 300 yards from the Missouri, at the distance of twelve miles from its mouth. Farther on they reached an island to the north, near which the banks overflow; while on the south, hills project over the river in the form of high cliffs. At one point a part of the cliff, nearly three fourths of a mile in length and 200 feet in height, had fallen into the river. On the 20th they passed a creek called by the French *l'Eau qui Pleure*, or the Weeping Water, and here the narrative states, "for a month past the party have been troubled with boils, and occasionally with dysentery. These boils were large tumours which broke out under the arms, on the legs, and, generally, in the parts most exposed to action, which sometimes became too painful to permit the men to work. After remaining some days, they disappeared without any assistance, except a poultice of the bark of the elm or of Indian meal. This disorder, which we ascribe to the muddiness of the river water,

has not affected the general health of the party, which is quite as good, if not better, than that of the same number of men in any other situation."

They reached the great River Platte on the 21st, and it is thus described: "The highlands, which had accompanied us on the south for the last eight or ten miles, stopped at about three quarters of a mile from the entrance of the Platte. Captains Lewis and Clarke ascended the river in a pirogue for about one mile, and found the current very rapid, rolling over sands, and divided into a number of channels, none of which are deeper than five or six feet. One of our Frenchmen, who spent two winters on it, says that it spreads much more at some distance from the mouth; that its depth is generally not much more than five or six feet; that there are many small islands scattered through it; and that, from its rapidity and the quantity of its sand, it cannot be navigated by boats or pirogues, though the Indians pass it in small flat canoes made of hides: that the Saline or Salt River, which in some seasons is too brackish to be drank, falls into it from the south, about thirty miles up; and a little above it Elkhorn River from the north, running nearly parallel with the Missouri. The river is, in fact, much more rapid than the Missouri, the bed of which it fills with moving sands, and drives the current on the northern shore, on which it is constantly encroaching. At its junction the Platte is about six hundred yards wide, and the same number of miles from the Mississippi. With much difficulty we worked round the sand-bars near the mouth, and came to above the point, having made fifteen miles."

## CHAPTER II.

Some Account of the Pawnees and other Tribes of Indians.—Council held with the Ottoe and Missouri Indians.—Little Sioux River.—Ravages of Smallpox among the Mahas.—Council held with another Party of the Ottoes.—Death of Sergeant Floyd.—Honour among the Indians.

THE next day, coming to a high and shaded spot on the north bank, ten miles above the Platte, Captain Lewis encamped there, in order to make the necessary observations, and to have an interview with the neighbouring tribes, that they might be informed of the recent change in the government, and of the desire of the United States to cultivate friendly relations with them. Captain Lewis thus continues his narrative:

“Our camp is by observation in latitude  $41^{\circ} 3' 11''$ . Immediately behind it is a plain about five miles wide, one half covered with wood, the other dry and elevated. The low grounds on the south, near the junction of the two rivers, are rich, but subject to be overflowed. Farther up the banks are higher, and opposite our camp the first hills approach the river, and are covered with timber, such as oak, walnut, and elm. The intermediate country is watered by the Papillon, or Butterfly Creek, of about 18 yards wide, and three miles from the Platte; on the north are high open plains and prairies, and at nine miles from the Platte, the Moscheto Creek and two or three small willow

islands. We stayed here several days, during which we dried our provisions, made new oars, and prepared our despatches and maps of the country we passed, for the President of the United States, to whom we intend to send them by a pirogue from this place. The hunters have found game scarce in this neighbourhood; they have seen deer, turkeys, and grouse; we have also an abundance of ripe grapes, and one of our men caught a white catfish, the eyes of which were small, and its tail resembling that of a dolphin.

“The present season is that in which the Indians go out into the prairies to hunt the buffalo; but as we discovered some hunters' tracks, and observed the plains on fire in the direction of their villages, we hoped that they might have returned to gather the green indian corn, and therefore despatched two men to the Ottoe or Pawnee villages with a present of tobacco, and an invitation to the chiefs to visit us. They returned after two days' absence. Their first course was through an open prairie to the south, in which they crossed Butterfly Creek. They then reached a small beautiful river, called Corne de Cerf, or Elkhorn River, about 100 yards wide, with clear water and a gravelly channel. It empties a little below the Ottoe village into the Platte, which they crossed, and arrived at the town about 45 miles from our camp. They found no Indians there, though they saw some fresh tracks of a small party. The Ottoes were once a powerful nation, and lived about 20 miles above the Platte, on the southern bank of the Missouri. Being reduced, they migrated to the neighbourhood of the Pawnees, under whose protection they now live. Their village is on the south side of

the Platte, about 30 miles from its mouth; and their number is 200, including about 30 families of Missouri Indians, who are incorporated with them.

“Five leagues above them, on the same side of the river, resides the nation of Pawnees. This people were among the most numerous of the Missouri Indians, but have gradually been dispersed and broken, and even since the year 1797 have undergone some sensible changes. They now consist of four bands: the first is the one just mentioned, of about 500 men, to whom of late years has been added the second band, who are called Republican Pawnees, from their having lived on the Republican branch of the River Kansas, whence they immigrated to join the principal band of Pawnees. The Republican Pawnees amount to nearly 250 men. The third are the Pawnees Loups, or Wolf Pawnees, who reside on the Wolf fork of the Platte, about 90 miles from the principal Pawnees, and number 280 men. The fourth band originally resided on the Kansas and Arkansaw, but in their wars with the Osages they were so often defeated that they at last retired to their present position on the Red River, where they form a tribe of 400 men. All these tribes live in villages and raise corn; but during the intervals of culture rove in the plains in quest of buffalo.

“Beyond them on the river, and westward of the Black Mountains, are the Kaninaviesch, consisting of about 400 men. They are supposed to have emigrated originally from the Pawnee nation; but they have degenerated from the improvements of the parent tribe, and no longer live in villages, but rove through the plains.

“Still farther to the westward are several tribes,



who wander and hunt on the sources of the River Platte, and thence to Rock Mountain. These tribes, of which little more is known than the names and the population, are, first the Staitan, or Kite Indians, a small tribe of one hundred men. They have acquired the name of Kites from their flying: that is, their being always on horseback; and the smallness of their numbers is to be attributed to their extreme ferocity: they are the most warlike of all the western Indians; they never yield in battle; they never spare their enemies; and the retaliation of this barbarity has almost extinguished the nation. Then come the Wetapahato and Kiawa tribes, associated together, and amounting to two hundred men; the Castahana, of three hundred men, to which are to be added the Cataka, of seventy-five men, and the Dotami. These wandering tribes are conjectured to be the remnants of the Great Padouca nation, who occupied the country between the upper parts of the River Platte and the River Kansas. They were visited by Bourgemont in 1724, and then lived on the Kansas River. The seats which he describes as their residence are now occupied by the Kansas nation; and of the Padoucas there does not now exist even the name."

Having completed the object of their stay, on the 27th of July they continued their voyage. "At ten and a half miles from our encampment," says the journalist, "we saw and examined a curious collection of graves or mounds, on the south side of the river. Not far from a low piece of land and a pond is a tract of about two hundred acres in circumference, which is covered with mounds of different heights, shapes, and sizes: some of sand and some of both

earth and sand; the largest being nearest the river. These mounds indicate the position of the ancient village of the Ottoes, before they retired to the protection of the Pawnees."

On the 29th they passed the spot where the Ayauway Indians, a branch of the Ottoes, once lived, and who had emigrated from this place to the River Des Moines. "Our hunter brought to us in the evening," continues the narrative, "a Missouri Indian, who he had found, with two others, dressing an elk; they were perfectly friendly, gave him some of the meat, and one of them agreed to accompany him to the boat. He is one of the few remaining Missouris who live with the Ottoes: he belongs to a small party whose camp is four miles from the river; and he says that the body of the nation is now hunting buffalo in the plains. He appeared quite sprightly, and his language resembled the Osage, particularly in his calling a chief *inca*. We sent him back with one of our party the next morning, with an invitation to the Indians to meet us on the river, and then proceeded."

\* \* \* "July 30. We went early in the morning three and a quarter miles, and encamped on the south, in order to wait for the Ottoes. The land here consists of a plain, above the high-water level, the soil of which is fertile, and covered with a grass from five to eight feet high, interspersed with copses of large plums, and a currant like those of the United States." \* \* \* "Back of this plain is a woody ridge about seventy feet above it, at the edge of which we formed our camp. This ridge separates the lower from a higher prairie of a good quality, with grass of ten or twelve inches in height, and extending back

about a mile to another elevation of eighty or ninety feet, beyond which is one continued plain. Near our camp we enjoy from the bluffs a most beautiful view of the river and the adjoining country. At a distance, varying from four to ten miles, and of a height between seventy and three hundred feet, two parallel ranges of highland afford a passage to the Missouri, which enriches the low grounds between them. In its winding course it nourishes the willow islands, the scattered cottonwood, elm, sycamore, lynn, and ash, and the groves are interspersed with hickory, walnut, coffeenut, and oak.

"July 31. The meridian altitude of this day made the latitude of our camp  $41^{\circ} 18' 14''$ . One of our men brought in yesterday an animal, called by the Pawnees *chocartoosh*, and by the French *blaireau*, or badger.

"We waited with much anxiety the return of our messenger to the Ottoes. The men whom we despatched to our last encampment returned without having seen any appearance of its having been visited. Our horses, too, had strayed; but we were so fortunate as to recover them at the distance of twelve miles. Our apprehensions were at length relieved by the arrival of a party of about fourteen Ottoe and Missouri Indians, who came at sunset, on the 2d of August, accompanied by a Frenchman who resided among them, and interpreted for us. Captains Lewis and Clarke went out to meet them, and told them that we would hold a council in the morning. In the mean time we sent them some roasted meat, pork, flour, and meal; in return for which, they made us a present of watermelons. We learned that our man Liberte had set out from their camp a day before



them : we were in hopes that he had fatigued his horse, or lost himself in the woods, and would soon return ; but we never saw him again.

The next morning the Indians, with their six chiefs, were all assembled under an awning formed with the mainsail, in presence of all our party, paraded for the occasion. A speech was then made, announcing to them the change in the government, our promises of protection, and advice as to their future conduct. All the six chiefs replied to our speech, each in his turn, according to rank. They expressed their joy at the change in the government ; their hopes that we would recommend them to their Great Father (the president), that they might obtain trade and necessaries : they wanted arms as well for hunting as for defence, and asked our mediation between them and the Mahas, with whom they are now at war. We promised to do so, and wished some of them to accompany us to that nation, which they declined, for fear of being killed by them. We then proceeded to distribute our presents. The grand chief of the nation not being of the party, we sent him a flag, a medal, and some ornaments for clothing. To the six chiefs who were present, we gave a medal of the second grade to one Ottoe chief and one Missouri chief ; a medal of the third grade to two inferior chiefs of each nation ; the customary mode of recognizing a chief being to place a medal round his neck, which is considered among his tribe as a proof of his consideration abroad. Each of these medals was accompanied by a present of paint, garters, and cloth ornaments of dress ; and to this we added a canister of powder, a bottle of whiskey, and a few presents to the whole, which appeared to

make them perfectly satisfied. The air-gun, too, was fired, and astonished them greatly. The absent grand chief was an Ottoe, named Weahrushhah, which, in English, degenerates into Little Thief. The two principal chieftains present were Shongotongo, or Big Horse, and Wethea, or Hospitality: also Shosguscan, or White Horse, an Ottoe; the first an Ottoe, the second a Missouri. The incidents just related induced us to give to this place the name of the Council Bluffs: the situation of it is exceedingly favourable for a fort and trading factory, as the soil is well calculated for bricks, and there is an abundance of wood in the neighbourhood, and the air being pure and healthy. It is also central to the chief resorts of the Indians: one day's journey to the Ottoes; one and a half to the great Pawnees; two days from the Mahas; two and a quarter from the Pawnee Loups' village; convenient to the hunting grounds of the Sioux; and twenty-five days' journey to Santa Fé. The ceremonies of the council being concluded, we set sail in the afternoon, and encamped at the distance of five miles, on the south side, where we found the moschetoes very troublesome."

The 5th of August they encamped on the north side of the river. "In the evening, Captain Clarke, in pursuing some game in an eastern direction, found himself, at the distance of three hundred and seventy yards from the camp, at a point of the river whence we had come twelve miles. When the water is high this peninsula is overflowed; and, judging from the customary and notorious changes in the stream, a few years will be sufficient to force the main current of the river across, and leave the great bend dry. The whole

lowland between the parallel range of hills seems formed of mud or ooze of the river, at some former period mixed with sand and clay. The sand of the neighbouring banks accumulates with the aid of that brought down the stream, and forms sand-bars, projecting into the river; these drive the channel to the opposite banks, the loose texture of which it undermines, and at length deserts its ancient bed for a new and shorter passage; it is thus that the banks of the Missouri are constantly falling, and the river changing its bed."

On the 7th they despatched four men back to the Ottoes village in quest of the man Liberte, and to apprehend one of the soldiers, who had left them on the 4th, under pretence of recovering a knife which he had dropped a short distance behind, and who, they feared, had deserted. They also sent small presents to the Ottoes and Missouris, and requested that they would join them at the Maha village, where a peace might be concluded between them.

The fourth day after leaving Council Bluffs they arrived at the mouth of a river on the northern side, called by the Sioux Indians, Eaneahwadepon, or Stone River, and by the French, *Petite Rivière des Sioux*, or Little Sioux River. At its confluence it is eighty yards wide. "Our interpreter, M. Durion," says the journalist, "who has been to the sources of it, and knows the adjoining country, says that it rises within about nine miles of the River Des Moines; that within fifteen leagues of that river it passes through a large lake nearly sixty miles in circumference and divided into two parts by rocks, which approach each other very closely: its width is various; it contains many

islands, and is known by the name of Lac d'Esprit. It is near the Dog Plains, and within four days' march of the Mahas. The country watered by it is open and undulating, and may be visited in boats up the river for some distance. The Des Moines, he adds, is about eighty yards wide where the Little Sioux River approaches it; it is shoally, and one of its principal branches is called Cat River. Two miles beyond this river is a long island, which we called Pelican Island, from the numbers of that animal which were feeding on it; one of these being killed, we poured into his bag five gallons of water. An elk, too, was shot; and we had again to remark that snakes are rare in this part of the Missouri. A meridian altitude, near the Little Sioux River, made the latitude  $41^{\circ} 42' 34''$ ."

On the 10th they passed the first highland near the river since leaving Council Bluffs; and not far distant was the spot where Blackbird, one of the great chiefs of the Mahas, who died of the smallpox, had been buried four years before. "A hill of yellow soft sandstone rises from the river in bluffs of various heights, till it ends in a knowl about three hundred feet above the water: on the top of this a mound, of twelve feet diameter at the base, and six feet high, is raised over the deceased king; a pole of about eight feet high is fixed in the centre, on which we placed a white flag, bordered with red, blue and white. The Blackbird seems to have been a personage of great consideration; for ever since his death he is supplied with provisions, from time to time, by the superstitious regard of the Mahas. We descended to the river, and passed a small creek on the south, called by the Mahas Waucandipeeche (*Great Spirit is bad*). Near this creek



and the adjoining hills the Mahas had a village, and lost four hundred of their nation by the dreadful malady which destroyed the Blackbird. The meridian altitude made the latitude  $42^{\circ} 1' 3.8''$  north."

Since leaving the River Platte the Missouri had been found more winding. At one place the distance across from one point of the stream to another, was only 974 yards, while the circuit of the river was eighteen and three fourth miles. On approaching a creek on which the Mahas had resided, a party was despatched to visit their village, with a flag and present, to induce them to come and hold a council. "After crossing a prairie covered with high grass, they reached the Maha Creek, along which they proceeded to its three forks, which join near the village: they crossed the north branch, and went along the south: the walk was very fatiguing, as they were forced to break their way through grass, sunflowers, and thistles, all above ten feet high, and interspersed with wild pea. Five miles from our camp they reached the position of the ancient Maha village: it had once consisted of three hundred cabins, but was burned about four years ago, soon after the smallpox had destroyed four hundred men, and a proportion of women and children. On a hill in the rear of the village are the graves of the nation, to the south of which runs the fork of the Maha Creek: this they crossed where it was about ten yards wide, and followed its course to the Missouri, passing along a ridge of hill for one and a half miles, and a long pond between that and the Missouri: they then recrossed the Maha Creek, and arrived at the camp, having seen no tracks of Indians, nor any sign of recent cultiva-

tion.” \* \* \* “The accounts we have had of the effects of the smallpox on that nation are most distressing: it is not known in what way it was first communicated to them, though probably by some war party. They had been a military and powerful people; but when these warriors saw their strength wasting before a malady which they could not resist, their phrensy was extreme; they burned their village, and many of them put to death their wives and children, to save them from so cruel an affliction, and that all might go together to some better country.”

On the 16th two parties went out to fish on the Maha Creek, and were remarkably successful. “They made a drag with small willows and bark, and swept the creek: the first company brought three hundred and eighteen, the second upward of eight hundred, consisting of pike, bass, fish resembling salmon, trout, redhorse, buffalo, one rockfish, one flatback, perch, catfish, a small species of perch, called, on the Ohio, silver fish, and a shrimp of the same size, shape, and flavour of those about New Orleans and the lower part of the Mississippi.”

“On the 17th, in the evening,” says the narrative, “one of the party sent to the Ottoes returned, with the information that the rest were coming on with the deserter. They had also caught Liberte, but, by a trick, he made his escape: they were bringing three of the chiefs, in order to engage our assistance in making peace with the Mahas. This nation having left their village, that desirable purpose cannot be effected; but, in order to bring in any neighbouring tribes, we set the surrounding prairies on fire. This is the customary signal made by traders to apprise

the Indians of their arrival: it is also used between different nations as an indication of any event which they have previously agreed to announce in that way, and, as soon as it is seen, collects the neighbouring tribes, unless they apprehend that it is made by their enemies.

“August 18. In the afternoon the party arrived with the Indians, consisting of the Little Thief and the Big Horse, whom we had seen on the third, together with six other chiefs, and a French interpreter. We met them under a shade, and, after they had finished a repast with which we supplied them, we inquired into the origin of the war between them and the Mahas, which they related with great frankness. It seems that two of the Missouris went to the Mahas to steal horses, but were detected and killed; the Ottoes and Missouris thought themselves bound to avenge their companions, and the whole nations were at last obliged to share in the dispute: they are also in fear of a war from the Pawnees, whose village they entered this summer while the inhabitants were hunting, and stole their corn. This ingenuous confession did not make us the less desirous of negotiating a peace for them; but no Indians have as yet been attracted by our fire. The evening was closed by a dance; and the next day, the chiefs and warriors being assembled at ten o'clock, we explained the speech we had already sent from the Council Bluffs, and renewed our advice. They all replied in turn, and the presents were then distributed. We exchanged the small medal we had formerly given to the Big Horse for one of the same size with that of Little Thief: we also gave a small medal to a third chief, and a kind

of certificate or letter of acknowledgment to five of the warriors, expressive of our favour and their good intentions. One of them, dissatisfied, returned us the certificate; but the chief, fearful of us being offended, begged that it might be restored to him; this we declined, and rebuked them severely for having in view mere traffic instead of peace with their neighbours. This displeased them at first; but they at length all petitioned that it should be given to the warrior, who then came forward and made an apology to us; we then delivered it to the chief to be given to the most worthy, and he bestowed it on the same warrior, whose name was Great Blue Eyes. After a more substantial present of small articles and tobacco, the council was ended with a dram to the Indians. In the evening we exhibited different objects of curiosity, and particularly the air-gun, which gave them great surprise. Those people are almost naked, having no covering except a sort of breech-cloth round the middle, with a loose blanket or buffalo robe, painted, thrown over them. The names of these warriors, besides those already mentioned, were Karkapaha, or *Crow's Head*, and Nenasawa, or *Black Cat*, Missouri; and Sananona, or *Iron Eyes*, Neswaunja, or *Big Ox*, Stageaunja, or *Big Blue Eyes*, and Wasashaco, or *Brave Man*, all Ottoes. These two tribes speak very nearly the same language: they all begged us to give them whiskey.

“The next morning, August 20, the Indians mounted their horses and left us, having received a canister of whiskey at parting. We then set sail, and, after passing two islands on the north, came to on that side under some bluffs—the first near the river since we left the Ayauway village. Here we had the



misfortune to lose one of our sergeants, Charles Floyd. He was yesterday seized with a bilious colic, and all our care and attention were ineffectual to relieve him. A little before his death he said to Captain Clarke, 'I am going to leave you;' his strength failed him as he added, 'I want you to write me a letter;' but he died with a composure which justified the high opinion we had formed of his firmness and good conduct. He was buried on the top of the bluff with the honours due to a brave soldier, and the place of his interment marked by a cedar post, on which his name and the day of his death were inscribed. About a mile beyond this place, to which we gave his name, is a small river about thirty yards wide, on the north, which we called Floyd's River, where we encamped. We had a breeze from the southeast, and made thirteen miles."

On the 21st they passed the mouth of the great Sioux River, three miles beyond Floyd's. "This river comes in from the north, and is about one hundred and ten yards wide. M. Durion, our Sioux interpreter," continues the narrative, "who is well acquainted with it, says that it is navigable upward of two hundred miles to the falls, and even beyond them: that its sources are near those of the St. Peter's. He also says, that below the falls a creek falls in from the eastward, after passing through cliffs of red rock. Of this the Indians make their pipes; and the necessity of procuring that article has introduced a sort of law of nations, by which the banks of the creek are sacred, and even tribes at war meet without hostility at these quarries, which possess a right of asylum. Thus we find, even among savages, certain principles deemed

sacred, by which the rigours of their merciless system of warfare are mitigated. A sense of common danger, where stronger ties are wanting, gives all the binding force of more solemn obligations. The importance of preserving the known and settled rules of warfare among civilized nations, in all their integrity, becomes strikingly evident; since even savages, with their few precarious wants, cannot exist in a state of peace or war where this faith is once violated."

After ascending the Missouri some miles above the Great Sioux, the bluffs on the south bank were found to contain copperas, alum, cobalt, and other mineral substances, which, affecting the water, had occasioned disorders of the stomach among the men; but, by removing the scum from the surface of the water and dipping deep, this effect was prevented. On an extensive and delightful prairie on the north side they killed the first buffalo, and hence they gave to it the name of that animal. Here, likewise, a deer and beaver were killed, and two elk were seen. Near this there was a bluff of blue clay, rising to an elevation of 180 or 190 feet on the south side, exhibiting marks of recent fire, and still so hot beneath the surface as not to endure by the hand.



### CHAPTER III.

Whimsical Instance of Superstition of the Sioux Indians.—Council held with the Sioux.—Character of that Tribe, their Manners, &c.—A ridiculous Instance of their Heroism.—Ancient Fortifications.—Vast Herds of Buffalo.—Account of the Petit Chien, or Little Dog.—Narrow Escape of George Shannon.—Surprising Fleetness of the Antelope.—Pass the River of the Sioux.—The Grand Detour, or Great Bend.—Encamp on the Teton River.

ON the 25th of August, the party being encamped on the south side of the river, "Captains Lewis and Clarke, with ten men, went to see an object deemed very extraordinary among all the neighbouring Indians. They dropped down to the mouth of Whitestone River, about thirty yards wide, where they left the boat, and at the distance of two hundred yards ascended a rising ground, from which a plain extended itself as far as the eye could discern. After walking four miles they crossed the creek where it is twenty-three yards wide, and waters an extensive valley. The heat was so oppressive that we were obliged to send back our dog to the creek, as he was unable to bear the fatigue; and it was not till after four hours' march that we reached the object of our visit. This was a large mound in the midst of the plain about N. 20° W. from the mouth of Whitestone River, from which it is nine miles distant. The base of the mound is a regular parallelogram, the longest side being about three hundred yards, the

shorter sixty or seventy : from the longest side it rises with a steep ascent from the north and south to the height of sixty-five or seventy feet, leaving on the top a level plain of twelve feet in breadth and ninety in length. The north and south extremities are connected by two oval borders, which serve as new bases, and divide the whole side into three steep but regular gradations from the plain. The only thing characteristic in this hill is its extreme symmetry : and this, together with its being totally detached from the other hills, which are at the distance of eight or nine miles, would induce a belief that it was artificial ; but, as the earth and the loose pebbles which compose it are arranged exactly like the steep grounds on the borders of the creek, we concluded from this similarity of texture that it might be natural. But the Indians have made it a great article of their superstition : it is called the Mountain of Little People, or Little Spirits ; and they believe that it is the abode of little devils, in the human form, of about eighteen inches high, and with remarkably large beads ; they are armed with sharp arrows, with which they are very skillful, and are always on the watch to kill those who should have the hardihood to approach their residence. The tradition is, that many have suffered from these little evil spirits, and, among others, three Maha Indians fell a sacrifice to them a few days ago. This has inspired all the neighbouring nations, Sioux, Mahas, and Ottoes, with such terror, that no consideration could tempt them to visit the hill. We saw none of these wicked little spirits, nor any place for them, except some small holes scattered over the top ; we were happy enough to escape their vengeance, though we remained some time

on the mound to enjoy the delightful prospect of the plain, which spreads itself out till the eye rests upon the northwest hills at a great distance, and those of the northeast, still farther off, enlivened by large herds of buffalo feeding at a distance.

“The soil of these plains is exceedingly fine: there is, however, no timber except on the Missouri, all the wood of the Whitestone River not being sufficient to cover thickly one hundred acres. The plain country which surrounds this mound has contributed not a little to its bad reputation: the wind, driving from every direction over the level ground, obliges the insects to seek shelter on its leeward side, or be driven against it. The small birds, whose food they are, resort there, of course, in great numbers in quest of subsistence; and the Indians always seem to consider an unusual assemblage of birds as produced by some supernatural cause. Among them we observed the brown martin employed in looking for insects, and so gentle that they did not fly until we got within a few feet of them. We have also distinguished among the numerous birds of the plain, the blackbird, the wren or prairie-bird, and a species of lark about the size of a partridge, with a short tail.”

Rejoining the boats, on the morning of the 26th they proceeded on their route, and the next day passed the mouth of the Yankton, opposite which an Indian swam to the boat; and, on their landing, they were met by two others, who informed them that a large body of Sioux were encamped near them: they accompanied three men, who were sent with an invitation to the Sioux to meet them at a spot above the river. The third Indian remained behind: he was a



Maha boy, and said that his nation had gone to the Pawnees to make peace with them.

On the 28th they reached Calumet Bluff, where, on a beautiful plain near it, they encamped, and awaited the arrival of the Sioux. One of the pirogues, by running against a log, had been rendered unfit for service: fine prairies were on either side of the river, and timber was more plentiful.

The Journal thus continues: "Wednesday, 29th. We had a violent storm of wind and rain last evening, and were engaged during the day in repairing the pirogue and other necessary occupations; when, at four o'clock in the afternoon, Sergeant Pryor and his party arrived on the opposite side, attended by five chiefs and about seventy men and boys. We sent a boat for them, and they joined us, as did also M. Durion, the son of our interpreter, who happened to be trading with the Sioux at this time. He returned with Sergeant Pryor to the Indians, with a present of tobacco, corn, and a few kettles, and told them that we would speak to their chiefs in the morning. Sergeant Pryor reported that, on reaching their village, which is at twelve miles' distance from our camp, he was met by a party with a buffalo robe, on which they desired to carry their visitors; an honour which they declined, informing the Indians that they were not the commanders of the boats. As a mark of respect, they were then presented with a fat dog, already cooked, of which they partook heartily, and found it well flavoured. The camps of the Sioux are of a conical form, covered with buffalo robes, painted with various figures and colours, with an aperture in the top for the smoke to pass through. The lodges contain from



ten to fifteen persons, and the interior arrangement is compact and handsome, each lodge having a place for cooking detached from it.

“August 30th. The fog was so thick we could not see the Indian camp on the opposite side, but it cleared off about eight o'clock. We prepared a speech and some presents, and then sent for the chiefs and warriors, whom we received at twelve o'clock under a large oak tree, near to which the flag of the United States was flying. Captain Lewis delivered a speech, with the usual advice and counsel for their future conduct. We then acknowledged their chiefs, by giving to the grand chief a flag, a medal, a certificate, with a string of wampum, to which we added a chief's coat; that is, a richly-laced uniform of the United States' artillery corps, and a cocked hat and red feather. One second chief and three inferior ones were made or recognized by medals, and a suitable present of tobacco and articles of clothing. We then smoked the pipe of peace, and the chiefs retired to a bower, formed of bushes by their young men, where they divided among each other the presents, and smoked and ate, and held a council on the answer which they were to make us on to-morrow. The young people exercised their bows and arrows in shooting at marks for beads, which we distributed to the best marksmen: and in the evening the whole party danced until a late hour: in the course of their amusement we threw among them some knives, tobacco, bells, tape, and binding, with which they were much pleased. Their musical instruments were the drum, and a sort of little bag made of buffalo hide, dressed white, with small shot or pebbles in it, and a bunch of hair tied to it. This produces a sort of rat-

ting music, with which the party was annoyed by four musicians during the council this morning.

“ August 31st. In the morning, after breakfast, the chiefs met and sat down in a row, with pipes of peace highly ornamented, and all pointed towards the seats intended for Captains Lewis and Clarke. When they arrived and were seated, the grand chief, whose Indian name, Weucha, is in English *Shake Hand*, and in French is called *Le Libérateur* (the Deliverer), rose and spoke at some length, approving what we had said, and promising to follow our advice.

“ ‘ I see before me,’ said he ‘ my great father’s two sons. You see me and the rest of our chiefs and warriors. We are very poor; we have neither powder, nor ball, nor knives; and our women and children at the village have no clothes. I wish that, as my brothers have given me a flag and a medal, they would give something to those poor people, or let them stop and trade with the first boat which comes up the river. I will bring the chiefs of the Pawnees and Mahas together, and make peace between them; but it is better that I should do it than my great father’s sons, for they will listen to me more readily. I will also take some chiefs to your country in the spring; but before that time I cannot leave home. I went formerly to the English, and they gave me a medal and some clothes: when I went to the Spaniards they gave me a medal, but nothing to keep it from my skin: but now you give me a medal and clothes. But still we are poor; I wish, brothers, you would give us something for our squaws.’

“ When he sat down, Mahtoree, or White Crane, rose:

“‘I have listened,’ said he, ‘to what our father’s words were yesterday; and I am to-day glad to see how you have dressed our old chief. I am a young man, and do not wish to take much; my fathers have made me a chief; I had much sense before, but now I think I have more than ever. What the old chief has declared I will confirm, and do whatever he and you please; but I wish that you would take pity on us, for we are very poor.’

‘Another chief, called Pawnawneahpahbe, then said:

“‘I am a young man, and know but little; I cannot speak well, but I have listened to what you have told the old chief, and will do whatever you agree.’

“The same sentiments were then repeated by Aweawechache.

“We were surprised at finding that the first of these titles means Struck by the Pawnee, and was occasioned by some blow which the chief had received in battle from one of the Pawnee tribe. The second is in English, Half Man, which seemed a singular name for a warrior, till it was explained to have its origin, probably, in the modesty of the chief, who, on being told of his exploits, would say, ‘I am no warrior, I am only half a man.’ The other chiefs spoke very little; but after they had finished, one of the warriors delivered a speech, in which he declared he would support them. They promised to make peace with the Ottoes and Missouris, the only nations with whom they were at war. All these harangues concluded by describing the distress of the nation: they begged us to have pity on them; to send them traders; that they wanted powder and ball; and seemed anxious that

we should supply them with some of their great father's milk, the name by which they distinguish ardent spirits. We gave some tobacco to each of the chiefs, and a certificate to two of the warriors who attended the chief. We prevailed on M. Durion to remain here, and accompany as many of the Sioux chiefs as he could collect to the seat of government. We also gave his son a flag, some clothes, and provisions, with directions to bring about a peace between the surrounding tribes, and to convey some of their chiefs to see the president. In the evening they left us, and encamped on the opposite bank, by the two Durions. During the evening and night we had much rain, and observed that the river rises a little.

“The Indians who have just left us are the Yanktons, a tribe of the great nation of Sioux. These Yanktons are about two hundred men in number, and inhabit the Jacques, Des Moines, and Sioux Rivers. In person they are stout, well proportioned, and have a certain air of dignity and boldness. In their dress they differ nothing from the other bands of the nation whom we saw, and will describe afterward: they are fond of decorations, and use paint and porcupine-quills, and feathers. Some of them wore a kind of necklace of white bear's claws, three inches long, and closely strung together round their necks. They have only a few fowling-pieces, being generally armed with bows and arrows; in which, however, they do not appear as expert as the more northern Indians. What struck us most was an institution peculiar to them and to the Kite Indians, farther to the westward, from whom it is said to have been copied. It is an association of the most active and brave young men, who are

bound to each other by attachment, secured by a vow never to retreat before any danger or give way to their enemies. In war they go forward without sheltering themselves behind trees, or aiding their natural valour by any artifice. This punctilious determination not to be turned from their course became heroic, or ridiculous, a short time since, when the Yanktons were crossing the Missouri on the ice. A hole lay immediately in their course, which might easily have been avoided by going round. This the foremost of the band disdained to do, but went straight forward, and was lost. The others would have followed his example, but were forcibly prevented by the rest of the tribe. These young men sit, and encamp, and dance together, distinct from the rest of the nation: they are generally about thirty or thirty-five years old; and such is the deference paid to courage, that their seats in council are superior to those of the chiefs, and their persons more respected. But, as may be supposed, such indiscreet bravery will soon diminish the numbers of those who practise it; so that the band is now reduced to four warriors, who were among our visitors. These were the remains of twenty-two, who composed the society not long ago; but, in a battle with the Kite Indians of the Black Mountains, eighteen of them were killed, and these four were dragged from the field by their companions.

“While these Indians remained with us, we made very minute inquiries relative to their situation, and numbers, and trade, and manners. This we did very satisfactorily, by means of two different interpreters; and from their accounts, joined to our interviews



with other bands of the same nation, and much intelligence acquired since, we were enabled to understand with some accuracy the condition of the Sioux, hitherto so little known.

“The Sioux, or Dacorta Indians, originally settled on the Mississippi, and called by Carver, Madowesians, are now subdivided into tribes, as follows:

“First, the Yanktons: this tribe inhabits the Sioux, Des Moines, and Jacques Rivers, and numbers about two hundred warriors.

“Second, the Tetons of the Burned Woods: this tribe numbers about three hundred men, who rove on both sides of the Missouri, the White, and Teton Rivers.

“Third, the Tetons Okandandas: a tribe consisting of about one hundred and fifty men, who inhabit both sides of the Missouri below the Chayenne River.

“Fourth, Tetons Minnakenozzo: a nation inhabiting both sides of the Missouri above the Chayenne River, and containing about two hundred and fifty men.

“Fifth, Tetons Saone: these inhabit both sides of the Missouri below the Warreconne River, and consist of about three hundred men.

“Sixth, Yanktons of the Plains, or Big Devils; who rove on the heads of the Sioux, Jacques, and Red Rivers: the most numerous of all the tribes, and number about five hundred men.

“Seventh, Wahpatone: a nation residing on the St. Peter's, just above the mouth of that river, and numbering two hundred men.

“Eighth, Midawarcarton, or proper Dacota, or Sioux Indians: these possess the original seat of the Sioux, and are properly so denominated. They rove

on both sides of the Mississippi, about the Falls of St. Anthony, and consist of three hundred men.

“Ninth, The Wahpotoota, or Leaf Beds: this nation inhabits both sides of the River St. Peter’s below Yellow Wood River, amounting to about one hundred and fifty men.

“Tenth, Sistasoone: this nation numbers two hundred men, and resides at the head of the St. Peter’s. Of these several tribes more particular notice will be taken hereafter.”

September 1st they passed Calumet Bluffs, and on reaching Bonhomme Island the next day, Captain Clarke visited an ancient fortification, which is thus described: “This interesting object is on the south side of the Missouri, opposite the upper extremity of Bonhomme Island, and in a low level plain, the hills being three miles from the river. It begins by a wall composed of earth, rising immediately from the bank of the river, and running in a direct course S.  $74^{\circ}$  W. ninety-six yards; the base of this wall or mound is seventy-five feet, and its height about eight. It then diverges in a course S.  $84^{\circ}$  W., and continues at the same height and depth to the distance of fifty-three yards, the angle being formed by a sloping descent; at the junction of these two is an appearance of a hornwork of the same height with the first angle. The same wall then pursues a course N.  $69^{\circ}$  W. for three hundred yards: near its western extremity is an opening or gateway at right angles to the wall, and projecting inward: this gateway is defended by two nearly semicircular walls placed before it, lower than the large walls, and from the gateway there seems to have been a covered way communicating with the interval be-

tween these two walls. Westward of the gate, the wall becomes much larger, being about one hundred and five feet at its base, and twelve feet high: at the end of this high ground the wall extends for fifty-six yards on a course N.  $32^{\circ}$  W.; it then turns N.  $23^{\circ}$  W. for seventy-three yards. These two walls seem to have had a double or covered way: they are from ten to fifteen feet eight inches in height, and from seventy-five to one hundred and five feet in width at the base; the descent inward being steep, while outward it forms a sort of glacis. At the distance of seventy-three yards the wall ends abruptly at a large hollow place much lower than the general level of the plain, and from which is some indication of a covered way to the water. The space between them is occupied by several mounds, scattered promiscuously through the gorge, in the centre of which is a deep round hole. From the extremity of the last wall, in a course N.  $32^{\circ}$  W., is a distance of ninety-six yards over the low ground, where the wall recommences, and crosses the plain in a course N.  $81^{\circ}$  W., for eighteen hundred and thirty yards, to the bank of the Missouri. In this course its height is about eight feet, till it enters, at the distance of five hundred and thirty-three yards, a deep circular pond of seventy-three yards' diameter; after which it is gradually lower towards the river. It touches the river at a muddy bar, which bears every mark of being an encroachment of the water for a considerable distance; and a little above the junction is a small circular redoubt. Along the bank of the river, and at eleven hundred yards' distance in a straight line from this wall, is a second, about six feet high, and of considerable width: it rises abruptly

from the banks of the Missouri, at a point where the river bends, and goes straight forward, forming an acute angle with the last wall, till it enters the river again not far from the mounds just described, towards which it is obviously tending. At the bend the Missouri is five hundred yards wide, the ground on the opposite side highlands, or low hills on the bank; and where the river passes between this fort and Bonhomme Island, all the distance from the bend, it is constantly washing the banks into the stream, a large sand-bank being already taken from the shore near the wall. During the whole course of this wall, or glacis, it is covered with trees, among which are many large cotton-trees, two or three feet in diameter. Immediately opposite the citadel, or the part most strongly fortified, on Bonhomme Island, is a small work in a circular form, with a wall surrounding it, about six feet in height. The young willows along the water, joined to the general appearance of the two shores, induce a belief that the bank of the island is encroaching, and the Missouri indemnifies itself by washing away the base of the fortification. The citadel contains about twenty acres, but the parts between the long walls must embrace nearly five hundred acres.

“These are the first remains of the kind which we have had an opportunity of examining; but our French interpreters assure us that there are great numbers of them on the Platte, the Kansas, the Jacques, &c.; and some of our party say that they observed two of those fortresses on the upper side of the Petit Arc Creek, not far from its mouth; that the wall was about six feet high, and the sides of the angles one hundred yards in length.”

The following day they passed *La Rivière qui*

Court, and the day after the Poncara, where was a village belonging to the Indians of that name, but which was found deserted, it being the hunting season. "This tribe of Poncaras, who are said to have once numbered four hundred men, are now reduced to about fifty, and have associated for mutual protection with the Mahas, who are about two hundred in number. These two nations are allied by a similarity of misfortune; they were once both numerous, both resided in villages, and cultivated Indian corn. Their common enemies, the Sioux and smallpox, drove them from their towns, which they visit only occasionally for the purposes of trade; and they now wander over the plains on the sources of the Wolf and Quicurre Rivers."

"Twenty miles farther on," continues the narrative, "we reached and encamped at the foot of a round mountain on the south, having passed two small islands. This mountain, which is about three hundred feet at the base, forms a cone at the top, resembling a dome at a distance, and seventy feet or more above the surrounding highlands. As we descended from this dome, we arrived at a spot on the gradual descent of the hill, nearly four acres in extent, and covered with small holes: these are the residences of a little animal, called by the French *petit chien* (little dog), which sit erect near the mouth, and make a whistling noise, but, when alarmed, take refuge in their holes. In order to bring them out, we poured into one of the holes five barrels of water without filling it, but we dislodged and caught the owner. After digging down another of the holes for six feet, we found, on running a pole into it, that we had not yet dug half way to the



bottom. we discovered, however, two frogs in the hole, and near it we killed a dark rattlesnake, which had swallowed a small prairie dog. We were also informed though we never witnessed the fact, that a sort of lizard and a snake live habitually with these animals. The petit chien are justly named, as they resemble a small dog in some particulars, although they have also some points of similarity to the squirrel. The head resembles the squirrel in every respect, except that the ear is shorter; the tail like that of the ground squirrel; the toe nails are long, the fur is fine, and the long hair is gray."

The following days they saw large herds of buffalo, and the copses of timber appeared to contain elk and deer. "Just below Cedar Island," adds the Journal, "on a hill to the south, is the backbone of a fish, forty-five feet long, tapering towards the tail, and in a perfect state of petrification, fragments of which were collected and sent to Washington."

On the 11th they visited a village of barking squirrels, and succeeded in killing four of those animals, and they were rejoined by one of their missing companions, of which the following account is given:

"In the morning we observed a man riding on horseback down towards the boat, and we were much pleased to find that it was George Shannon, one of our party, for whose safety we had been very uneasy. Our two horses having strayed from us on the 26th of August, he was sent to search for them. After he had found them, he attempted to rejoin us; but, seeing some other tracks, which must have been those of Indians, and which he mistook for our own, he concluded that we were ahead, and had been for sixteen

days following the bank of the river above us. During the first four days he exhausted his bullets, and was then nearly starved, being obliged to subsist for twelve days on a few grapes, and a rabbit which he had killed by making use of a hard piece of stick for a ball. One of his horses gave out, and was left behind; the other he kept as a last resource for food. Despairing of overtaking us, he was returning down the river in the hope of meeting some other boat, and was on the point of killing his horse, when he was so fortunate as to join us."

"September the 14th. The hills, particularly on the south," says the Journal, "continue high, but the timber is confined to the islands and banks of the river. We had occasion here to observe the rapid undermining of these hills by the Missouri. The first attacks seem to be on the hills which overhang the river: as soon as the violence of the current destroys the grass at the foot of them, the whole texture appears loosened, and the ground dissolves and mixes with the water: the muddy mixture is then forced over the low grounds, which it covers sometimes to the depth of three inches, and gradually destroys the herbage: after which it can offer no resistance to the water, and becomes at last covered with sand."

The next day they passed the mouth of the White River, which has a bed of 300 yards in width, and at the confluence of which with the Missouri "is an excellent position for a town; the land rising by three gradual ascents, and the neighbourhood furnishing more timber than is usual in this country."

"September 16. Early in the morning," continues the narrative, "having reached a convenient spot on

the south side, and at one mile and a quarter's distance, we encamped just above a small creek, which we called Corvus, having killed an animal of that genus near it. Finding that we could not proceed over the sand-bars as fast as we desired while the boat was so heavily loaded, we concluded not to send back as was originally intended, our third pirogue, but to detain the soldiers until spring, and in the mean time lighten the boat by loading the pirogue: this operation, added to that of drying all our wet articles, detained us during the day. Our camp is in a beautiful plain, with timber thinly scattered for three quarters of a mile, and consisting chiefly of elm, cottonwood, some ash of an indifferent quality, and a considerable quantity of a small species of white oak: this tree seldom rises higher than thirty feet, and branches very much; the bark is rough, thick, and of a light colour; the leaves small, deeply indented, and of a pale green; the cup which contains the acorn is fringed on the edges, and embraces it about one half; the acorn itself, which grows in great profusion, is of an excellent flavour, and has none of the roughness which most other acorns possess; they are now falling, and have probably attracted the number of deer which we saw at this place, as all the animals we have seen are fond of that food. The ground having been recently burned by the Indians, is covered with young green grass, and in the neighbourhood are great quantities of fine plums. We killed a few deer for the sake of their skins, which we wanted to cover the pirogues, the meat being too poor for food. The cold season coming on, a flannel shirt was given to each man, and fresh powder to those who had exhausted their supply.

"September 17. While some of the party were engaged in the same way as yesterday, others were employed in examining the surrounding country. About a quarter of a mile behind our camp, and at an elevation of twenty feet above it, a plain extends nearly three miles parallel to the river, and about a mile back to the hills, towards which it gradually ascends. Here we saw a grove of plum trees loaded with fruit, now ripe, and differing in nothing from those of the Atlantic States, except that the tree is smaller and more thickly set. The ground of the plain is occupied by the burrows of multitudes of barking squirrels, who entice hither the wolves of a small kind, hawks, and polecats, all of which animals we saw, and presumed that they fed on the squirrel. This plain is intersected, nearly in its whole extent, by deep ravines, and steep, irregular rising grounds, from one to two hundred feet. On ascending the range of hills which border the plain, we saw a second high level plain, stretching to the south as far as the eye could reach. To the westward, a high range of hills, about twenty miles distant, runs nearly north and south, but not to any great extent, as their rise and termination is embraced by one view, and they seemed covered with a verdure similar to that of the plains. The same view extended over the irregular hills which border the northern side of the Missouri. All around, the country had been recently burned, and a young green grass about four inches high covered the ground, which was enlivened by herds of antelopes and buffalo; the last of which were in such multitudes, that we cannot exaggerate in saying that at a single glance we saw three thousand of them before us. Of all

the animals we had seen, the antelope seems to possess the most wonderful fleetness. Shy and timorous, they generally repose only on the ridges, which command a view of all the approaches of an enemy: the acuteness of their sight distinguishes the most distant danger; the delicate sensibility of their smell defeats the precautions of concealment: and, when alarmed, their rapid career seems more like the flight of birds than the movements of a quadruped. After many unsuccessful attempts, Captain Lewis at last, by winding around the ridges, approached a party of seven, which were on an eminence towards which the wind was unfortunately blowing. The only male of the party frequently encircled the summit of the hill, as if to announce any danger to the females, which formed a group at the top. Although they did not see Captain Lewis the smell alarmed them, and they fled when he was at the distance of two hundred yards: he immediately ran to the spot where they had been; a ravine concealed them from him; but the next moment they appeared on a second ridge, at the distance of three miles. He doubted whether they could be the same; but their number, and the extreme rapidity with which they continued their course, convinced him that they must have gone with a speed equal to that of the most distinguished race-horse. Among our acquisition to-day were a mule-deer, a magpie, a common deer, and a buffalo: Captain Lewis also saw a hare, and killed a rattlesnake near the burrows of the barking squirrels.

“September 18. Having everything in readiness, we proceeded, with the boat much lightened, but the wind being from the N. W. we made but little way.



At one mile we reached an island in the middle of the river, nearly a mile in length, and covered with red cedar; at its extremity a small creek comes in from the north: we then met some sand-bars, and the wind being very high and ahead, we encamped on the south, having made only seven miles. In addition to the common deer, which were in great abundance, we saw goats, elk, buffalo, and the black-tailed deer; the large wolves, too, are very numerous, and have long hair with coarse fur, and are of a light colour. A small species of wolf, about the size of a gray fox, was also killed, and proved to be the animal which we had hitherto mistaken for a fox: there are also many porcupines, rabbits, and barking squirrels in the neighbourhood.

“September 19. We this day enjoyed a cool, clear morning, and a wind from the southeast. We reached at three miles a bluff on the south, and four miles farther the lower point of Prospect Island, about two and a half miles in length. Opposite to this are high bluffs, about eighty feet above the water, beyond which are beautiful plains, gradually rising as they recede from the river: these are watered by three streams, which empty near each other; the first is about thirty-five yards wide, the ground on its sides high and rich, with some timber; the second about twelve yards wide, but with less timber; the third is nearly of the same size, and contains more water; but it scatters its waters over the large timbered plain, and empties itself into the river at three places. These rivers are called by the French *les Trois Rivières des Sioux*, the Three Sioux Rivers; and as the Sioux generally cross the Missouri at this place, it is called

the Sioux Pass of the three rivers. These streams have the same right of asylum, though in a less degree than Pipestone Creek already mentined."

On the 20th they arrived at the Grand Detour, or Great Bend, and two men were despatched with the only horse to hunt, and wait the arrival of the boats at the first creek beyond it. After proceeding twenty-seven and a half miles farther, they encamped on a sand-bar in the river. "Captain Clarke," continues the narrative, "who early this morning had crossed the neck of the bend, joined us in the evening. At the narrowest part, the gorge is composed of high and irregular hills of about one hundred and eighty or one hundred and ninety feet in elevation; from this descends an unbroken plain over the whole of the bend, and the country is separated from it by this ridge. Great numbers of buffalo, elk, and goats are wandering over these plains, accompanied by grouse and larks. Captain Clarke saw a hare, also, in the Great Bend. Of the goats killed to-day, one is a female, differing from the male in being smaller in size; its horns, too, are smaller and straighter, having one short prong, and no black about the neck: none of these goats have any beard, but are delicately formed, and very beautiful."

Shortly after midnight the sleepers were startled by the sergeant on guard crying out that the sand-bar was sinking, and the alarm was timely given; for scarcely had they got off with the boats before the bank under which they had been lying fell in; and by the time the opposite shore was reached, the ground on which they had been encamped sunk also. A man who was sent to step off the distance across

the head of the bend, made it but 2000 yards, while its circuit is thirty miles. On the 22d they passed a creek and two islands, known by the name of the Three Sisters, where a beautiful plain extended on both sides of the river. "This is followed by an island on the north, called Cedar Island, about one mile and a half in length, and the same distance in breadth, and deriving its name from the quantity of its timber. On the south side of this island is a fort and a large trading-house, built by a Mr. Loisel in order to trade with the Sioux, the remains of whose camps are in great numbers about this place. The establishment is sixty or seventy feet square, built with red cedar, and picketed in with the same materials."

The next day, in the evening, three boys of the Sioux nation swam across the river, and informed them that two parties of Sioux were encamped on the next river, one consisting of eighty, and the second of sixty lodges, at some distance above. After treating them kindly, they sent them back with a present of two carrots of tobacco to their chiefs, whom they invited to a conference in the morning.

September 24. At an island a few miles above Highwater Creek they were joined by one of their hunters, "who," proceeds the narrative, "procured four elk; but while he was in pursuit of the game the Indians had stolen his horse. We left the island, and soon overtook five Indians on the shore: we anchored, and told them from the boat we were friends, and wished to continue so, but were not afraid of any Indians; that some of their young men had stolen the horse which their great father had sent for their great

chief, and that we could not treat with them until he was restored. They said that they knew nothing of the horse, but if he had been taken he should be given up. We went on, and at thirteen and a half miles we anchored one hundred yards off the mouth of a river on the south side, where we were joined by both the pirogues, and encamped: two thirds of the party remained on board, and the rest went as a guard on shore, with the cooks and one pirogue; we have seen along the sides of the hills on the north a great deal of stone; besides the elk, we also observed a hare; the five Indians whom we had seen followed us, and slept with the guard on shore. Finding one of them was a chief, we smoked with him, and made him a present of tobacco. This river is about seventy yards wide, and has a considerable current. As the tribe of the Sioux which inhabit it are called Teton, we gave it the name of Teton River."



## CHAPTER IV.

Council held with the Tetons.—Their Manners, Dances, &c.—Chayenne River.—Council held with the Ricara Indians.—Their Manners and Habits.—Strange Instance of Ricara Idolatry.—Another Instance.—Cannonball River.—Arrival among the Mandans.—Character of the surrounding Country.

“**S** EPTEMBER 25. The morning was fine, and the wind continued from the southeast. We raised a flagstaff and an awning, under which we assembled at twelve o'clock, with all the party parading under arms. The chiefs and warriors, from the camp two miles up the river, met us, about fifty or sixty in number, and after smoking we delivered them a speech; but as our Sioux interpreter, Mr. Durion, had been left with the Yanktons, we were obliged to make use of a Frenchman who could not speak fluently, and therefore we curtailed our harangue. After this we went through the ceremony of acknowledging the chiefs, by giving to the grand chief a medal, a flag of the United States, a laced uniform coat, a cocked hat and feather; to the two other chiefs, a medal and some small presents; and to two warriors of consideration, certificates. The name of the great chief is Untongasabaw, or Black Buffalo: the second, Tortohonga, or the Partisan; the third, Tartongawaka, or Buffalo Medicine; the name of one of the warriors was Wawzinggo; that of the second Matocoquepa, or Second Bear. We then invited the



chiefs on board, and showed them the boat, the air-gun, and such curiosities as we thought might amuse them. In this we succeeded too well; for, after giving them a quarter of a glass of whiskey, which they seemed to like very much, and sucked the bottle, it was with much difficulty that we could get rid of them. They at last accompanied Captain Clarke on shore, in a pirogue with five men; but it seems they had formed a design to stop us; for no sooner had the party landed than three of the Indians seized the cable of the pirogue, and one of the soldiers of the chief put his arms round the mast. The second chief, who affected intoxication, then said that we should not go on; that they had not received presents enough from us. Captain Clarke told him that he would not be prevented from going on; that we were not squaws, but warriors; that we were sent by our great father, who could in a moment exterminate them. The chief replied that he too had warriors, and was proceeding to offer personal violence to Captain Clarke, who immediately drew his sword, and made a signal to the boat to prepare for action. The Indians, who surrounded him, drew their arrows from their quivers, and were bending their bows, when the swivel in the boat was instantly pointed towards them, and twelve of our most determined men jumped into the pirogue and joined Captain Clarke. This movement made an impression on them, for the grand chief ordered the young men away from the pirogue, and they withdrew and held a short council with the warriors. Being unwilling to irritate them, Captain Clarke then went forward, and offered his hand to the first and second chiefs, who refused to take it. He then turned from

them and got into the pirogue; but he had not got more than ten paces, when both the chiefs and two of the warriors waded in after him, and he brought them on board. We then proceeded on for a mile, and anchored off a willow island, which, from the circumstances which had just occurred, we called Bad-humoured Island.

“September 26. Our conduct yesterday seemed to have inspired the Indians with fear of us; and as we were desirous of cultivating their acquaintance, we complied with their wish that we should give them an opportunity of treating us well, and also suffer their squaws and children to see us and our boat, which would be perfectly new to them. Accordingly, after passing, at one-and-a-half miles, a small willow island and several sand-bars, we came to on the south side, where a crowd of men, women, and children were waiting to receive us. Captain Lewis went on shore, and remained several hours; and observing that their disposition was friendly, we resolved to remain during the night to a dance, which they were preparing for us. Captains Lewis and Clarke, who went on shore one after the other, were met on landing by ten well-dressed young men, who took them up in a robe, highly decorated, and carried them to a large council-house, where they were placed on a dressed buffalo skin by the side of the grand chief. The hall or council-room, was in the shape of three quarters of a circle, covered at the top and sides with skins well dressed and sewed together. Under this shelter sat about seventy men, forming a circle round the chief, before whom were placed a Spanish flag and the one we had given them yesterday. This left a

vacant circle of about six feet diameter, in which the pipe of peace was raised on two forked sticks, about six or eight inches from the ground, and under it the down of the swan was scattered: a large fire, in which they were cooking provisions, stood near, and in the centre about four hundred pounds of excellent buffalo meat, as a present for us. As soon as we were seated an old man got up, and, after approving what we had done, begged us to take pity on their unfortunate situation. To this we replied with assurances of protection. After he had ceased, the great chief rose and delivered an harangue to the same effect; then, with great solemnity, he took some of the most delicate parts of the dog which was cooked for the festival, and held it to the flag by way of sacrifice; this done, he held up the pipe of peace, and first pointed it towards the heavens, then to the four quarters of the globe, and then to the earth. made a short speech, lighted the pipe, and presented it to us. We smoked, and he again harangued his people, after which the repast was served up to us. It consisted of the dog which they had just been cooking, this being a great dish among the Sioux, and used on all festivals; to this were added pemitigon, a dish made of buffalo meat, dried or jerked, and then pounded and mixed raw with grease and a kind of ground potato, dressed like the preparation of Indian corn called hommony, to which it is little inferior. Of all these luxuries, which were placed before us in platters with horn spoons, we took the pemitigon and the potato, which we found good, but we could as yet partake but sparingly of the dog.

“ We ate and smoked for an hour, when it became

dark; everything was then cleared away for the dance, a large fire being made in the centre of the house, giving at once light and warmth to the ball-room. The orchestra was composed of about ten men, who played on a sort of tambourine, formed of skin stretched across a hoop, and made a jingling noise with a long stick to which the hoofs of deer and goats were hung; the third instrument was a small skin bag with pebbles in it: these, with five or six young men for the vocal part, made up the band. The women then came forward, highly decorated; some with poles in their hands, on which were hung the scalps of their enemies; others with guns, spears, or different trophies taken in war by their husbands, brothers, or connexions. Having arranged themselves in two columns, one on each side of the fire, as soon as the music began they danced towards each other till they met in the center, when the rattles were shaken, and they all shouted and returned back to their places. They have no step, but shuffle along the ground; nor does the music appear to be anything more than a confusion of noises, distinguished only by hard or gentle blows upon the buffalo skin: the song is perfectly extemporaneous. In the pauses of the dance, some man of the company comes forward and recites, in a sort of low guttural tone, some little story or incident, which is either martial or ludicrous, or, as was the case this evening voluptuous and indecent; this is taken up by the orchestra and the dancers, who repeat it in a higher strain, and dance to it. Sometimes they alternate, the orchestra first performing, and when it ceases the women raise their voices, and make a music more agreeable, that

is, less intolerable than that of the musicians. The dances of the men, which are always separate from those of the women, are conducted very nearly in the same way, except that the men jump up and down instead of shuffling; and in the war dances the recitations are all of a military cast. The harmony of the entertainment had nearly been disturbed by one of the musicians, who, thinking he had not received a due share of the tobacco we had distributed during the evening, put himself into a passion, broke one of the drums, threw two of them into the fire, and left the band. They were taken out of the fire: a buffalo robe, held in one hand and beaten with the other by several of the company, supplied the place of the lost drum or tambourine, and no notice was taken of the offensive conduct of the man. We stayed till twelve o'clock at night, when we informed the chiefs that they must be fatigued with all these attempts to amuse us, and retired, accompanied by four chiefs, two of whom spent the night with us on board.

“While on shore we saw twenty-five squaws and about the same number of children, who had been taken prisoners two weeks ago in a battle with their countrymen, the Mahas. In this engagement the Sioux destroyed forty lodges, killed seventy-five men, of whom we saw many of the scalps, and took these prisoners: their appearance is wretched and dejected; the women, too, seem low in stature, coarse and ugly, though their present condition may diminish their beauty. We gave them a variety of small articles, such as awls and needles, and interceded for them with the chiefs, to whom we recommended to follow the advice of their great father, to restore the prisoners,



and live in peace with the Mahas, which they promised to do.

“The tribe which we this day saw are a part of the **great** Sioux nation, and are known by the name of the Teton Okandandas: they are about two hundred men in number, and their chief residence is on both sides of the Missouri, between the Chayenne and Teton Rivers. In their persons they are rather ugly and ill-made, their legs and arms being too small, their cheek-bones high, and their eyes projecting. The females, with the same character of form, are more handsome; and both sexes appear cheerful and sprightly; but in our intercourse with them we discovered that they were cunning and vicious.

“The men shave the hair off their heads, except a small tuft on the top, which they suffer to grow, and wear in plaits over the shoulders; to this they seem much attached, as the loss of it is the usual sacrifice at the death of near relations. In full dress, the men of consideration wear a hawk's feather, or calumet feather worked with porcupine quills, and fastened to the top of the head, from which it falls back. The face and body are generally painted with a mixture of grease and coal. Over the shoulders is a loose robe or mantle of buffalo skin dressed white, adorned with porcupine quills, loosely fixed, so as to make a jingling noise when in motion, and painted with various uncouth figures, unintelligible to us, but to them emblematic of military exploits or any other incident: the hair of the robe is worn next the skin in fair weather, but when it rains the hair is put outside, and the robe is either thrown over the arm or wrapped round the body, all of which it may cover.

Under this, in the winter season, they wear a kind of shirt resembling ours, made either of skin or cloth, and covering the arms and body. Round the middle is fixed a girdle of cloth, or procured dressed elk-skin, about an inch in width, and closely tied to the body; to this is attached a piece of cloth, or blanket, or skin, about a foot wide, which passes between the legs, and is tucked under the girdle both before and behind. From the hip to the ankle is covered by leggins of dressed antelope skins, with seams at the sides two inches in width, and ornamented by little tufts of hair, the produce of the scalps they have made in war, which are scattered down the leg. The winter moccasins are of dressed buffalo skin, the hair being worn inward, and soaled with thick elk-skin parchment: those for summer are of deer or elk-skin dressed without the hair, and with soals of elk-skin. On great occasions, or whenever they are in full dress, the young men drag after them the entire skin of a polecat fixed to the heel of the moccasin. Another skin of the same animal is either tucked into the girdle, or carried in the hand, and serves as a pouch for their tobacco, or what the French traders call *bois roulé*: this is the inner bark of a species of red willow, which, being dried in the sun or over the fire, is rubbed between the hands and broken into small pieces, and is used alone, or mixed with tobacco. The pipe is generally of red earth, the stem made of ash, about three or four feet long, and highly decorated with feathers, hair, and porcupine quills.

“The hair of the women is suffered to grow long, and is parted from the forehead across the head, at the back of which it is either collected into a kind

of bag, or hangs down over the shoulders. Their moccasins are like those of the men, as are also the leggins, which do not, however, reach beyond the knee, where they are met by a long loose shift of skin, which reaches nearly to the ancles; this is fastened over the shoulders by a string, and has no sleeves, but a few pieces of the skin hang a short distance round the arm. Sometimes a girdle fastens this skin round the waist, and over all is thrown a robe like that worn by the men. They seem fond of dress. Their lodges are very neatly constructed, in the same form as those of the Yanktons: they consist of about one hundred cabins (made of white buffalo hide dressed), with a larger one in the centre for holding councils and dances. They are built round with poles, about fifteen or twenty feet high, covered with white skins. These lodges may be taken to pieces, packed up, and carried with the nation wherever they go, by dogs which bear great burdens. The women are chiefly employed in dressing buffalo skins: they seem perfectly well disposed, but are addicted to stealing anything which they can take without being observed. This nation, although it makes so many ravages among its neighbours, is badly supplied with guns. The water which they carry with them is contained chiefly in the paunches of deer and other animals, and they make use of wooden bowls. Some had their heads shaved, which we found was a species of mourning for their relations. Another usage on these occasions is to run arrows through the flesh, both above and below the elbow.

“While on shore to-day, we witnessed a quarrel between two squaws, which appeared to be growing

every moment more boisterous, when a man came forward, at whose approach every one seemed terrified and ran. He took the squaws, and without any ceremony whipped them severely. On inquiring into the nature of such summary justice, we learned that this man was an officer well known to this and many other tribes. His duty is to keep the peace; and the whole interior police of the village is confided to two or three of these officers, who are named by the chief, and remain in power some days, at least till the chief appoints a successor: they seem to be a sort of constable or sentinel, since they are always on the watch to keep tranquillity during the day, and guarding the camp in the night. The short duration of their office is compensated by its authority. This power is supreme, and in the suppression of any riot or disturbance no resistance to them is suffered; their persons are sacred; and if, in the execution of their duty, they strike even a chief of the second class, they cannot be punished for this salutary insolence. In general they accompany the person of the chief; and when ordered to any duty, however, dangerous, it is a point of honour rather to die than to refuse obedience. Thus, when they attempted to stop us yesterday, the chief ordered one of these men to take possession of the boat; he immediately put his arms round the mast, and, as we understood, no force, except the command of the chief, would have induced him to release his hold. Like the other men, their bodies are blackened; but their distinguishing mark is a collection of two or three raven skins fastened to the girdle behind the back, in such a way that the tails stick out horizontally from the body. On his head, too, is a raven skin

split into two parts, and tied so as to let the beak project from the forehead.

“ September 27. We rose early, and the two chiefs took off, as a matter of course, and according to their custom, the blanket on which they had slept. To this we added a peck of corn, as a present to each. Captain Lewis and the chiefs went on shore to see a part of the nation that was expected, but did not come. He returned at two o'clock with four of the chiefs, and a warrior of distinction called Wadrapa (or On his Guard). They examined the boat, and admired whatever was strange during half an hour, when they left it with great reluctance. Captain Clarke accompanied them to the lodge of the grand chief, who invited them to a dance, where, being joined by Captain Lewis, they remained till a late hour. The dance was very similar to that of yesterday. About twelve we left them, taking the second chief and one principal warrior on board. As we came near the boat, the man who steered the pirogue by mistake brought her broadside against the boat's cable, and broke it. We called up all hands to their oars. But our noise alarmed the two Indians; they called out to their companions, and immediately the whole camp crowded to the shore; but after half an hour they returned, leaving about sixty men near us. The alarm given by the chiefs was said to be, that the Mahas had attacked us, and that they were desirous of assisting us to repel them. But we suspected that they were afraid we meant to set sail, and intended to prevent us from doing so; for in the night the Maha prisoners had told one of our men, who understood the language, that we were to be stopped. We therefore, without giving



any indication of our suspicion, prepared everything for an attack, as the loss of our anchor obliged us to come near to a falling bank, very unfavourable for defence.

“We were not mistaken in these opinions; for when, in the morning, after dragging unsuccessfully for the anchor, we wished to set sail, it was with great difficulty that we could make the chiefs leave the boat. At length we got rid of all except the great chief, when, just as we were setting out, several of the chief's soldiers sat on the rope which held the boat to the shore. Irritated at this, we got everything ready to fire on them if they persisted; but the great chief said that these were his soldiers, and only wanted some tobacco. We had already refused a flag and some tobacco to the second chief, who had demanded it with great importunity; but, willing to leave them without going to extremities, we threw him a carrot of tobacco, saying to him, ‘You have told us that you were a great man, and have influence; now show your influence by taking the rope from those men, and we will then go on without any farther trouble.’ This appeal to his pride had the desired effect; he went out of the boat, gave the soldiers the tobacco, and, pulling the rope out of their hands, delivered it on board, and we then set sail under a breeze from the southeast. After sailing about two miles, we observed the third chief beckoning to us: we took him on board, and he informed us that the rope had been held by the order of the second chief, who was a double-faced man. A little farther on we were joined by the son of the chief, who came on board to see his father. On his return we sent a speech to the nation,

explaining what we had done, and advising them to peace; but if they persisted in their attempts to stop us, we were willing and able to defend ourselves."

After spending four days in this manner with the Tetons, they proceeded on their way. Stragglers of the unfriendly tribe they had just left appeared at times on the bank, and were disposed to be troublesome: at one place they saw an encampment of 100 of them. On the 1st of October they passed a river corruptly rendered Dog River, as if from the French "chien;" its true appellation is Chayenne, from the Indians of that name. The history of this tribe "is the short and melancholy relation of the calamities of almost all the Indians. They were a numerous people, and lived on the Chayenne, a branch of the Red River of Lake Winnipeg. The invasion of the Sioux drove them westward: in their progress they halted on the southern side of the Missouri, below the Warreconne, where their ancient fortifications still exist; but the same impulse again drove them to the heads of the Chayenne, where they now rove, and occasionally visit the Ricaras. They are now reduced, but still number three hundred men."

This river rises in the Black Mountains; and M. Vallé, one of three French traders whom they found here waiting for the Sioux coming down from the Ricaras, informed them that he had passed the last winter three hundred leagues up the Chayenne, under those mountains. "That river he represented as very rapid, liable to sudden swells, the bed and shores formed of coarse gravel, and difficult of ascent even for canoes. One hundred leagues from its mouth it divides into two branches, one coming from the south,

the other, at forty leagues from the junction, entering the Black Mountains. The land which it waters, from the Missouri to the Black Mountains, resembles the country on the Missouri, except that the former has even less timber, and of that the greater portion is cedar. The Chayennes reside chiefly on the heads of the river, and steal horses from the Spanish settlement: a plundering excursion which they perform in a month's time. The Black Mountains, he observed, were very high, covered with great quantities of pine, and in some parts the snow remains during the summer. There are also great quantities of goats, white bear, prairie cocks, and a species of animal which, from his description, must resemble a small elk, with large circular horns."

They still continued to be annoyed at different times by the Tetons on the banks. The weather began to be very cold, with a white frost in the morning. On the 6th of October, they halted for dinner at a village which they supposed to have belonged to the Ricaras: "It is situated in a low plain on the river, and consists of about eighty lodges of an octagon form, neatly covered with earth, placed as close to each other as possible, and picketed round. The skin canoes, mats, buckles, and articles of furniture found in the lodges, led to the belief that it had been left in the spring."

The next day they passed the Sawawkawna; and just below its mouth was "another village or wintering camp of the Ricaras, composed of about sixty lodges, built in the same form as those passed the day before, with willow and straw mats, baskets, and buffalo-skin canoes remaining entire in the camp."

At a short distance above the Wetawhoo River they came to an island where was a village of the Ricaras, and which Captain Lewis went to see. "It is situated in the center of the island, near the southern shore, under the foot of some high, bald, uneven hills, and contains about sixty lodges. The island itself is three miles long, and covered with fields in which the Indians raise corn, beans, and potatoes. Several Frenchmen, living among these Indians as interpreters or traders, came back with Captain Lewis, and among them M. Gravelines, a man who has acquired the language."

"On the 9th," continues the narrative, "the wind was so cold and high last night, and during all the day, that we could not assemble the Indians in council; but some of the party went to the village. We received the visits of the three principal chiefs, with many others, to whom we gave some tobacco, and told them that we would speak to them to-morrow. The names of these chiefs were, first, Kaka-wissassa, or Lighting Crow; second chief, Pocasse, or Hay; third, Piaheto, or Eagle's Feather. Notwithstanding the high waves, two or three squaws rowed to us in a little canoe made of a single buffalo skin, stretched over a frame of boughs interwoven like a basket, and with the most perfect composure. The object which appeared to astonish the Indians most was Captain Clark's servant York, a remarkably stout, strong negro. They had never seen a being of that colour, and therefore flocked round him to examine the extraordinary monster. By way of amusement, he told them that he had once been a wild animal, and been caught and tamed by his master; and to con-

vince them, showed them feats of strength which, added to his looks, made him more terrible than we wished him to be."

The following morning, M. Gravelines, who had breakfasted with Captain Lewis, was sent to invite the Ricara chiefs to a conference. "They all assembled," says the Journal, "at one o'clock, and, after the usual ceremonies, we addressed them in the same way in which we had already spoken to the Ottoes and Sioux. We then made or acknowledged three chiefs, one for each of the three villages, giving to each a flag, a medal, a red coat, a cocked hat and feather, also some goods, paint, and tobacco, which they divided among themselves. After this the air-gun was exhibited, very much to their astonishment: nor were they less surprised at the colour and manner of York. On our side, we were equally gratified at discovering that these Ricaras made use of no spirituous liquors of any kind; the example of the traders who bring it to them, so far from tempting, having in fact disgusted them. Supposing that it was as agreeable to them as to the other Indians, we had at first offered them whiskey; but they refused it with this sensible remark, *that they were surprised that their father should present to them a liquor which would make them fools.* On another occasion they observed to M. Tabeau, that no man could be a friend who tried to lead them into such follies. The council being over, they retired to consult on their answer.

"The next morning, at eleven o'clock, we again met in council at our camp. The grand chief made a short speech of thanks for the advice we had given, and promised to follow it; adding that the door was



now open, and no one dare shut it, and that we might depart whenever we pleased, alluding to the treatment we had received from the Sioux. They also brought us some corn, beans, and dried squashes, and in return we gave them a steel mill, with which they were much pleased. At one o'clock we left our camp with the grand chief and his nephew on board, and at about two miles anchored below a creek on the south, separating the second and third village of the Ricaras, which are about half a mile distant from each other. We visited both the villages, and sat conversing with the chiefs for some time, during which they presented us with a bread made of corn and beans, also corn and beans boiled, and a large rich bean which they take from the mice of the prairie who discover and collect it. These two villages are placed near each other in a high smooth prairie; a fine situation, except that, having no wood, the inhabitants, are obliged to go for it across the river to a timbered lowland opposite to them. We told them that we would speak to them in the morning at their villages separately.

"Accordingly, after breakfast we went on shore to the house of the chief of the second village, named Lassel, where we found his chiefs and warriors. They made us a present of about seven bushels of corn, a pair of leggins, a twist of their tobacco, and the seeds of two different species of tobacco. The chief then delivered a speech expressive of his gratitude for the presents and the good counsels which we had given him: his intention of visiting his great father but for fear of the Sioux; and requested us to take one of the Ricara chiefs up to the Mandans, and ne-

gotiate a peace between the two nations. To this we replied in a suitable way, and then repaired to the third village. Here we were addressed by the chief, in nearly the same terms as before, and entertained with a present of ten bushels of corn, some beans, dried pumpkins, and squashes. After we had answered, and explained the magnitude and power of the United States, the three chiefs came with us to the boat. We gave them some sugar, a little salt, and a sun-glass. Two of them then left us, and a chief of the third, by name Ahketahnasha, or Chief of the Town, accompanied us to the Mandans. At two o'clock we left the Indians, who crowded to the shore to take leave of us.

"The Ricaras were originally colonies of Pawnees, who established themselves on the Missouri below the Chayenne, where the traders still remember that twenty years ago they occupied a number of villages. From that situation a part of the Ricaras emigrated to the neighbourhood of the Mandans, with whom they were then in alliance. The rest of the nation continued near the Chayenne till the year 1797, in the course of which, distressed by their wars with the Sioux, they joined their countrymen near the Mandans. Soon after a new war arose between the Ricaras and the Mandans, in consequence of which the former came down the river to their present position. In this migration, those who had first gone to the Mandans kept together, and now live in the two lower villages, which may thence be considered as the Ricaras proper. The third village was composed of such remnants of the villages as had survived the wars; and as these were nine in number, a difference of

pronunciation, and some difference of language may be observed between them and the Ricaras proper, who do not understand all the words of these wanderers. The villages are within the distance of four miles of each other, the two lower ones consisting of between one hundred and fifty and two hundred men each, the third of three hundred. The Ricaras are tall and well-proportioned, the women handsome and lively, and, as among other savages, to them falls all the drudgery of the field, and the labours of procuring subsistence, except that of hunting. Both sexes are poor, but kind and generous; and, although they receive with thankfulness what is given to them, do not beg as the Sioux did; though this praise should be qualified by mentioning that an axe was stolen last night from our cooks.

“The dress of the men is a simple pair of moccasins, leggins, and a cloth round the middle, over which a buffalo robe is occasionally thrown, with their hair, arms, and ears decorated with different ornaments. The women wear moccasins, leggins, a long shirt made of goats' skins, generally white and fringed, which is tied round the waist; to these they add, like the men, a buffalo robe without the hair in summer.”

\* \* \* “The Ricara lodges are in a circular or octagonal form, and generally about thirty or forty feet in diameter. They are made by placing forked posts, about six feet high, round the circumference of the circle; these are joined by poles from one fork to another, which are supported also by other forked poles slanting from the ground. In the centre of the lodge are placed four higher forks, about fifteen feet in length, connected together by beams; from these

to the lower poles the rafters are extended so as to leave a vacancy in the middle for the smoke. The frame of the building is then covered with willow branches, with which is interwoven grass, and over this mud or clay; the aperture for the door is about four feet wide, and before it is a sort of entry, about ten feet from the lodge. They are very warm and compact.

“They cultivate maize or Indian corn, beans, pumpkins, watermelons, squashes, and a species of tobacco peculiar to themselves.

“Their commerce is chiefly with the traders, who supply them with goods in return for peltries, which they procure not only by their own hunting, but in exchange for corn from their less civilized neighbours. The object chiefly in demand seemed to be red paint; but they would give anything they had to spare for the most trifling article. One of the men to-day gave an Indian a hook made out of a pin, and he gave him in return a pair of moccasins.

“They express a disposition to keep at peace with all nations; but they are well-armed with fusils, and, being much under the influence of the Sioux, who exchange the goods which they get from the British for Ricara corn, their minds are sometimes poisoned, and they cannot always be depended on. At the present moment they are at war with the Mandans.”

\* \* \* “In the morning of the 13th our visitors left us, except the brother of the chief who accompanied us and one of the squaws. We passed at an early hour a camp of Sioux on the north bank, who merely looked at us without saying a word, and, from the character of the tribe, we did not solicit a

conversation. At ten-and-a-half miles we reached the mouth of a creek on the north, which takes its rise from some ponds a short distance to the northeast. To this stream we gave the name of Stone Idol Creek; for, after passing a willow and sand island just above its mouth, we discovered that, a few miles back from the Missouri, there are two stones resembling human figures, and a third like a dog, all which are objects of great veneration among the Ricaras. Their history would adorn the *Metamorphoses* of Ovid. A young man was deeply enamoured with a girl whose parents refused their consent to the marriage. The youth went out into the fields to mourn his misfortunes; a sympathy of feeling led the lady to the same spot; and the faithful dog would not cease to follow his master. After wandering together, and having nothing but grapes to subsist on, they were at last converted into stone, which, beginning at the feet, gradually invaded the nobler parts, leaving nothing unchanged but a bunch of grapes, which the female holds in her hands to this day. Whenever the Ricaras pass these sacred stones, they stop to make some offering of dress to propitiate these deities. Such is the account given by the Ricara chief, which we had no mode of examining, except that we found one part of the story very agreeably confirmed; for on the river near where the sad event is said to have occurred, we found a greater abundance of fine grapes than we had yet seen."

\* \* \* "Above the Ricara Island the Missouri becomes narrow and deeper, the sand-bars being generally confined to the points; the current, too, is much more gentle; the timber on the lowlands is also in



much greater quantities, though the high grounds are still naked."

On their route the next day, corporeal punishment was inflicted on one of the soldiers. "This operation," says the journalist, "affected the Indian chief very sensibly, for he cried aloud during the punishment. We explained the offence and the reasons of it: he acknowledged that examples were necessary, and that he himself had given them by punishing with death; but his nation never whipped even children from their birth."

During their progress on the 16th they fell in with several small encampments of Ricaras, with whom the ordinary civilities were exchanged. "As we proceeded," continues the narrative, "there were great numbers of goats on the banks of the river, and we soon after saw large flocks of them in the water. They had been gradually driven into the river by the Indians, who now lined the shore so as to prevent their escape, and were firing on them; while sometimes boys went into the river and killed them with sticks. They seemed to be very successful, for we counted fifty-eight which they had killed. We ourselves killed some, and then passing the lodges to which these Indians belonged, encamped at the distance of half a mile on the south, having made fourteen and a half miles. We were soon visited by numbers of these Ricaras, who crossed the river hallooing and singing. Two of them then returned for some goats' flesh and buffalo meat dried and fresh, with which they made a feast that lasted till late at night, and caused much music and merriment."

Great numbers of goats were seen by them for sev-

eral days, coming to the north bank of the river. "These animals," M. Gravelines stated, "spend the summer in the plains east of the Missouri, and return in the autumn to the Black Mountains, where they subsist on leaves and shrubbery during the winter, and resume their migrations in the spring."

At Le Boulet, or Cannonball River, so called from the number of round stones on the shore, they met, on the 18th, with two Frenchmen in the employ of M. Gravelines, who had been robbed by the Mandans of their traps, furs, and other articles, and who were descending the river in a pirogue: but they turned back with the party in expectation of obtaining redress through their means.

As they proceeded on the 19th, the banks of the Missouri on both sides presented low grounds, much better timbered than those farther down the river. The hills were at one or two miles' distance from the shore, and the streams which flowed from them were brackish, the mineral salts appearing on the sides of the hills and edges of the runs. In walking along the shore they counted no less than fifty-two herds of buffalo, and three of elk, at a single view; also deer, pelicans, and wolves. They encamped opposite to the uppermost of a number of round hills, forming a cone at the top, one of them ninety feet in height. The chief who was with them stated that the calumet bird lived in the holes formed by the filtration of the water from the top of these hills through the sides. Near by, on the point of a hill ninety feet above the plain, were the remains of an old village, which was strong, and had been fortified. This, the chief informed them, was the remains of

one of the Mandan villages; and they were the first ruins they had seen of that nation in ascending the Missouri.

The next day they came to the remains of another village of the Mandans, who, the Ricara chief said, once occupied a number of villages on either side of the river, till the Sioux forced them forty miles higher up; whence, after a few years' residence, they moved to their present position. "We have seen," continues the narrative, "great numbers of elk, deer, goats, and buffalo, and the usual attendants of these last, the wolves, who follow their movements, and feed upon those who die by accident, or who are too poor to keep pace with the herd; we also wounded a white bear, and and saw some fresh tracks of those animals, which are twice as large as the track of a man."

Soon after starting on the 21st, they came to the Chisshetaw Creek, some distance up which, the Ricara chief stated, was "a large rock, which was held in great veneration, and visited by parties who go to consult it as to their own or nations' destinies, all of which they discern in some sort of figures or paintings with which it is covered. About two miles off from the mouth of the river, the party on shore saw another of the objects of Ricara superstition: it is a large oak-tree, standing alone in the open prairie; and as it, alone, has withstood the fire which has consumed everything around, the Indians naturally ascribe to it extraordinary powers. One of their ceremonies is to make a hole in the skin of their necks, through which a string is passed, and the other end tied to the body of the tree; and after remaining in this way for some time, they think they become braver."

The weather was now growing colder, with some snow; notwithstanding which, a party of the Sioux which they fell in with had on no other covering than a piece of cloth or of skin about the middle. Within the distance of twenty miles, they had passed the ruins of no less than nine villages of the Mandans. Nearly all that remained of them were the wall by which they were surrounded, the fallen heaps of earth which covered the houses, and occasionally human skulls, and the teeth and bones of men and of different animals, which were scattered on the surface of the ground.

On the 24th of October they came to a large island, on which they found one of the grand chiefs of the Mandans, who was on a hunting excursion. He met his enemy, the Ricara chief, with great ceremony and apparent cordiality, and smoked with him; and, after visiting his lodges, the grand chief and his brother came on board their boat for a short time. They encamped on the north side, below an old village of the Mandans and Ricaras. Here four Mandans came down from a camp above, and the Ricara chief returned with them to their camp, which was considered a favourable augury of their pacific views towards each other.

The weather continued cold, and after passing several deserted Indian villages the next day, parties of of Mandans, both on foot and horseback, came along the river to view them, and were desirous that they should land and talk to them. But as they were unable to do this, on account of the sand-breaks on the shore, they sent their Ricara chief to them in a pirogue.

After putting the Ricara chief again on shore, on

the 26th, to join the Mandans, who were in great numbers, they proceeded to the camp of the grand chiefs. "Here we met," says the Journal, "a Mr. M'Cracken, one of the Northwest or Hudson's Bay Company, who arrived with another person about nine days ago, to trade for horses and buffalo robes. Two of the chiefs came on board with some of their household furniture, such as earthen pots and a little corn, and went on with us; the rest of the Indians following on shore. At one mile beyond the camp we passed a small creek, and at three more a bluff of coal, of an inferior quality, on the south. After making eleven miles we reached an old field, where the Mandans had cultivated grain last summer, and encamped for the night on the south side, about half a mile below the first village of the Mandans." \* \* \* \* "As soon as we arrived, a crowd of men, women, and children came down to see us. Captain Lewis returned with the principal chiefs to the village, while the others remained with us during the evening. The object which seemed to surprise them most was a cornmill fixed to the boat, which we had had occasion to use, and which delighted them by the ease with which it reduced the grain to powder. Among others who visited us was the son of the grand chief of the Mandans, who had his two little fingers cut off at the second joint. On inquiring into this accident, we found that it was customary to express grief for the death of relations by some corporeal suffering, and that the usual mode was to lose two joints of the little finger, or sometimes the other fingers."



## CHAPTER V.

Council held with the Mandans.—A Prairie on Fire, and a singular Instance of Preservation.—Peace established between the Mandans and Ricaras.—The Party encamp for the Winter.—Indian Mode of catching Goats.—Beautiful Appearance of Northern Lights.—Friendly Character of the Indians.—Some Account of the Mandans, the Ahnahaways, and the Minnetarees.—The Party acquire the Confidence of the Mandans by taking part in their Controversy with the Sioux.—Religion of the Mandans, and their singular Conception of the term *Medicine*.—Their Tradition.—The Sufferings of the Party from the Severity of the Season.—Indian Game of Billiards described.—Account of the Sioux.

“OCTOBER 27. At an early hour we proceeded, and anchored off the village. Captain Clarke went on shore, and, after smoking a pipe with the chiefs, was desired to remain and eat with them. He declined on account of his being unwell; but his refusal gave great offence to the Indians, who considered it disrespectful not to eat when invited, till the cause was explained to their satisfaction. We sent them some tobacco, and then proceeded to the second village on the north, passing by a bank containing coal, and a second village, and encamped at four miles on the north, opposite to a village of Ahnahaways. We here met with a Frenchman named Jesseaume, who lives among the Indians with his wife and children, and whom we take as an interpreter. The Indians had flocked to the bank to

see us as we passed, and they visited in great numbers the camp, where some remained all night.

“ We sent in the evening three young Indians with a present of tobacco for the chiefs of the three upper villages, inviting them to come down in the morning to a council with us. Accordingly the next day we were joined by many of the Minnetarees and Ahnahaways from above, but the wind was so violent from the southwest that the chiefs of the lower villages could not come up, and the council was deferred till to-morrow. In the mean while we entertained our visitors by showing them what was new to them in the boat; all which, as well as our black servant, they called Great Medicine, the meaning of which we afterward learned. We also consulted the grand chief of the Mandans, Black Cat, and M. Jessaume, as to the names, characters, &c., of the chiefs with whom we are to hold the council. In the course of the day we received several presents from the women, consisting of corn, boiled hommony, and garden stuffs: in our turn, we gratified the wife of the great chief with the gift of a glazed earthen jar. Our hunter brought us two beaver. In the afternoon we sent the Minnetaree chiefs to smoke for us with the great chiefs of the Mandans, and told them we would speak in the morning.

“ Finding that we shall be obliged to pass the winter at this place, we went up the river about one and a half miles to-day, with a view of finding a convenient spot for a fort: but the timber was too scarce and small for our purposes.

“ October 29. The morning was fine, and we prepared our presents and speech for the council. After

breakfast we were visited by an old chief of the Ahnahaways, who, finding himself growing old and weak, had transferred his power to his son, who is now at war against the Shoshonees. At ten o'clock the chiefs were all assembled under an awning of our sails, stretched so as to exclude the wind, which had become high. That the impression might be the more forcible, the men were all paraded, and the council opened by a discharge from the swivel of the boat. We then delivered a speech, which, like those we had already made, intermingled advice with assurances of friendship and trade. While we were speaking the old Ahnahaway chief grew very restless, and observed that he could not wait long, as his camp was exposed to the hostilities of the Shoshonees. He was instantly rebuked with great dignity by one of the chiefs, for this violation of decorum at such a moment, and remained quiet during the rest of the council. Towards the end of our speech we introduced the subject of our Ricara chief, with whom we recommended a firm peace: to this they seemed well disposed, and all smoked with him very amicably. We also mentioned the goods which had been taken from the Frenchmen, and expressed a wish that they should be restored. This being over, we proceeded to distribute the presents with great ceremony. One chief of each town was acknowledged by a gift of a flag, a medal with the likeness of the President of the United States, a uniform coat, hat, and feather. To the second chiefs we gave a medal representing some domestic animals, and a loom for weaving; to the third chiefs, medals with the impression of a farmer sowing grain. A variety of other presents were distributed, but none

seemed to give them more satisfaction than an iron corn-mill, which we gave to the Mandans.

"The chiefs who were made to-day are Shahaka, or Big White, a first chief, and Kagohami, or Little Raven, a second chief of the lower village of the Mandans, called Matootonha. The other chiefs of an inferior quality who were recommended were first, Ohheenaw, or Big Man, a Chayenne taken prisoner by the Mandans, who adopted him, and he now enjoys great consideration among the tribe; a second, Shotahawrora, or Coal, of the second Mandan village, which is called Roptahee. We made Poscopseah, or Black Cat, the first chief of the village, and the grand chief of the whole Mandan nation; his second chief is Kagonomokshe, or Raven Man Chief. Inferior chiefs of this village were, Tawnnheo, and Bellahsara, of which we did not learn the translation.

"In the third village, which is called Mahawha, and where the Arwacahwas reside, we made one first chief, Tectuckopinreha, or White Buffalo Robe Unfolded, and recognized two of an inferior order: Minissurraree, or Neighing Horse, and Locongotiha, or Old Woman at a Distance.

"Of the fourth village, where the Minnetarees live, and which is called Metaharta, we made a first chief, Ompsehara, or Black Mocassin; a second chief, Ohhaw, or Little Fox. Other distinguished chiefs of this village were, Mahnotah, or Big Thief, a man whom we did not see, as he is out fighting, and was killed soon after; and Mahserassa, or Tail of the Columet Bird. In the fifth village we made a first chief, Eapanopa, or Red Shield; a second chief, Wankerassa, or Two-tailed Calumet Bird, both young chiefs. Other per-

sons of distinction are, Shahakohopinnee, or Little Wolf's Medicine; Ahrattanamockshe, or Wolfman Chief, who is now at war, and is the son of the old chief we have mentioned, whose name is Caltahcota, or Cherry on a Bush.

"The presents intended for the grand chief of the Minnetarees, who was not at the council, were sent to him by the old chief Caltahcota; and we delivered to a young chief those intended for the chief of the lower village. The council was concluded by a shot from our swivel, and, after firing the air-gun for their amusement, then retired to deliberate on the answer which they are to give to-morrow.

"In the evening the prairie took fire, either by accident or design, and burned with great fury, the whole plain being enveloped in flames. So rapid was its progress that a man and a woman were burned to death before they could reach a place of safety; another man, with his wife and child, were much burned, and several other persons narrowly escaped destruction. Among the rest, a boy of the half-white breed escaped unhurt in the midst of the flames; his safety was ascribed to the *great medicine spirit*, who had preserved him on account of his being white. But a much more natural cause was the presence of mind of his mother, who, seeing no hopes of carrying off her son, threw him on the ground, and covered him with the fresh hide of a buffalo, escaping herself from the flames. As soon as the fire had passed, she returned and found him untouched, the skin having prevented the flame from reaching the grass on which he lay.

"October 30. We were this morning visited by two persons from the lower village: one the Big



White, the chief of the village; the other, the Chayenne, called the Big Man: they had been hunting, and did not return yesterday early enough to attend the council. At their request we repeated part of our speech of yesterday, and put the medal round the neck of the chief. Captain Clarke took a pirogue and went up the river in search of a good wintering-place, and returned after going seven miles to the lower point of an island on the north side, about one mile in length. He found the banks on the north side high, with coal occasionally, and the country fine on all sides: but the want of wood, and the scarcity of game up the river, induced us to decide on fixing ourselves lower down during the winter. In the evening our men danced among themselves, to the great amusement of the Indians.

“October 31. A second chief arrived this morning with an invitation from the grand chief of the Mandans to come to his village, where he wished to present some corn to us, and to speak with us. Captain Clarke walked down to his village. He was first seated with great ceremony on a robe by the side of the chief, who then threw over his shoulders another robe handsomely ornamented: the pipe was then smoked with several of the old men, who were seated around the chief. After some time he began his discourse by observing that he believed what we had told him, and that they should enjoy peace, which would gratify him as well as his people, because they could then hunt without fear of being attacked, and the women might work in the fields without looking every moment for the enemy, and at night put off their moccasins: a phrase by which is conveyed the idea of security, when

the women could undress at night without fear of attack. As to the Ricaras, he continued, in order to show you that we wish peace with all men, that chief, pointing to his second chief, will go with some warriors back to the Ricaras with their chief now here, and smoke with that nation. When we heard of your coming, all the nations around returned from their hunting to see you, in hopes of receiving large presents; all are disappointed, and some discontented; for his part, he was not much so, though his village was. He added that he would go and see his great father the president. Two of the steel-traps stolen from the Frenchmen were then laid before Captain Clarke, and the women brought about twelve bushels of corn. After the chief had finished, Captain Clarke made an answer to the speech, and then returned to the boat, where he found the chief of the third village and Kagohami, the Little Raven, who smoked and talked about an hour. After they left the boat the grand chief of the Mandans came dressed in the clothes we had given him, with his two children, and begged to see the men dance, in which they willingly gratified him.

“November 1. Mr. M’Cracken, the trader whom we found here, set out to-day on his return to the British fort and factory on the Assiniboin River, about one hundred and fifty miles from this place. He took a letter from Captain Lewis to the Northwest Company, enclosing a copy of the passport granted by the British minister in the United States. At ten o’clock the chiefs of the lower village arrived; they requested that we would call at their village for some corn; said that they were willing to make peace with the Ricaras;

that they had never provoked the war between them; but as the Ricaras had killed some of their chiefs, they had retaliated on them; that they had killed them like birds till they were tired of killing them, so that they would send a chief and some warriors to smoke with them. In the evening we dropped down to the lower village, where Captain Lewis went on shore, and Captain Clarke proceeded to a point of wood on the north side.

“November 2. He therefore went up to the village, where eleven bushels of corn were presented to him. In the mean time Captain Clarke went down with the boats three miles, and, having found a good position where there was plenty of timber, encamped, and began to fell trees to build our huts. Our Ricara chief set out with one Mandan chief, and several Minnetaree and Mandan warriors: the wind was from the southeast, and the weather being fine, a crowd of Indians came down to visit us.

“November 3. We now began the building of our cabins, and the Frenchmen who were to return to St. Louis are building a pirogue for the purpose. We sent six men in a pirogue to hunt down the river. We were also fortunate enough to engage in our service a Canadian Frenchman, who had been with the Chayenne Indians on the Black Mountains, and last summer descended thence by the Little Missouri. M. Jes-saume, our interpreter, also came down with his squaw and children to live at our camp. In the evening we received a visit from Kagohami, or Little Raven, whose wife accompanied him, bringing about sixty pounds' weight of dried meat, a robe, and a pot of meal. We gave him, in return, a piece of tobacco, to his wife an axe and a few small articles, and both

of them spent the night at our camp. Two beavers were caught in traps this morning.

"November 4. We continued our labours: the timber which we employ is large and heavy, and consists chiefly of cottonwood and elm, with some ash of an inferior size. Great numbers of the Indians pass our camp on their hunting excursions; the day was clear and pleasant; but last night was very cold, and there was a white frost.

"November 5. The Indians are all out on their hunting parties: a camp of Mandans caught within two days one hundred goats a short distance below us. Their mode of hunting them is to form a large strong pen or fold, from which a fence, made of bushes, gradually widens on each side: the animals are surrounded by the hunters, and gently driven towards this pen, in which they imperceptibly find themselves enclosed, and are then at the mercy of the hunters. The weather is cloudy, and the wind moderate from the northwest. Late at night we were awakened by the sergeant on guard, to see the beautiful phenomenon called the northern light. Along the northern sky was a large space, occupied by a light of a pale but brilliant white colour, which, rising from the horizon, extended itself to nearly twenty degrees above it. After glittering for some time, its colours would be overcast, and almost obscured, but again it would burst out with renewed beauty: the uniform colour was pale light, but its shapes were various and fantastic. At times the sky was lined with light-coloured streaks, rising perpendicularly from the horizon, and gradually expanding into a body of light, in which we could trace the floating columns, sometimes advanc-

ing, sometimes retreating, and shaping into infinite forms the space in which they moved. It all faded away before the morning.

“November 6. M. Gravelines, and four others who came with us, returned to the Ricaras in a small pirogue: we gave him directions to accompany some of the Ricara chiefs to the seat of government in the spring.

“November 7. The day was temperate, but cloudy and foggy, and we were enabled to go on with our work with much expedition.

“November 8. The morning again cloudy: our huts advance very well, and we are visited by numbers of Indians, who come to let their horses graze near us. In the day the horses are let loose in quest of grass; in the night they are collected, and receive an armful of small boughs of the cottonwood, which, being very juicy, soft and brittle, form nutritious and agreeable food. The frost this morning was very severe, the weather during the day cloudy, and the wind from the northwest. We procured from an Indian a weasel, perfectly white except the extremity of the tail, which was black. Great numbers of wild geese are passing to the south, but their flight is too high for us to procure any of them.

“November 10. We had again a raw day, a northwest wind, but rose early in the hope of finishing our work before the extreme cold begins. A chief, who is a half Pawnee, came to us and brought a present of half a buffalo, in return for which we gave him some small presents, and a few articles to his wife and son. He then crossed the river in a buffalo-skin canoe: his wife took the boat on her back, and carried it to the



village, three miles off. Large flocks of geese and brant, and also a few ducks, are passing towards the south.

"November 11. The weather is cold. We received the visit of two squaws, prisoners from the Rocky Mountains, and purchased by Chaboneau. The Mandans at this time are out hunting the buffalo.

"November 12. The last night has been cold, and this morning we had a very hard frost: the wind changeable during the day, and some ice appears on the edges of the rivers; swans, too, are passing to the south. The Big White came down to us, having packed on the back of his squaw about one hundred pounds of very fine meat, for which we gave him as well as the squaw, some presents, particularly an axe to the woman, with which she was very much pleased.

"November 13. We this morning unloaded the boat, and stowed away the contents in a storehouse which we have built. At half past ten ice began to flow down the river for the first time. In the course of the morning we were visited by the Black Cat, Poscapsahe, who brought an Assiniboin chief and seven warriors to see us. This man, whose name is Chech-hawk, is a chief of one out of three bands of Assiniboins, who wander over the plains between the Missouri and Assiniboin during the summer, and in the winter carry the spoils of their hunting to the traders on the Assiniboin River, and occasionally come to this place: the whole three bands consist of about eight hundred men. We gave him a twist of tobacco to smoke with his people, and a gold cord for himself: the Sioux also asked for whiskey, which we refused

to give them. It snowed all day, and the air was very cold.

"November 14. The river rose last night half an inch, and is now filled with floating ice: this morning was cloudy, with some snow. About seventy lodges of Assiniboins and some Knistenaux are at the Mandan village; and, this being the day of adoption and exchange of property between them all, it is accompanied by a dance, which prevents our seeing more than two Indians to-day. These Knistenaux are a band of Chippeways, whose language they speak: they live on the Assiniboin and Saskashawan Rivers, and are about two hundred and forty men. We sent a man down on horseback to see what had become of our hunters, and, as we apprehend a failure of provisions, we have recourse to our pork this evening. Two Frenchmen who had been below returned with twenty beaver, which they had caught in traps.

"November 15. The morning again cloudy, and the ice running thicker than yesterday, the wind variable. The man came back with information that our hunters were about thirty miles below, and we immediately sent an order to them to make their way through the floating ice, to assist them in which we sent some tin for the bow of the pirogue, and a tow-rope. The ceremony of yesterday seems to continue still, for we were not visited by a single Indian. The swan are still passing to the south.

"November 16. We had a very hard white frost this morning: the trees are all covered with ice, and the weather cloudy. The men this day moved into the huts although they are not finished. In the evening some horses were sent down to the woods

near us, in order to prevent their being stolen by the Assiniboins, with whom some difficulty is now apprehended. An Indian came down with four buffalo robes and some corn, which he offered for a pistol, but was refused.

"November 17. Last night was very cold, and the ice in the river to-day is thicker than hitherto. We are totally occupied with our huts, but received visits from several Indians.

"November 18. To-day we had a cold windy morning: the Black Cat came to see us, and occupied us for a long time with questions on the usages of our country. He mentioned that a council had been held yesterday to deliberate on the state of their affairs. It seems that, not long ago, a party of Sioux fell in with some horses belonging to the Minnetarees, and carried them off; but in their flight they were met by some Assiniboins, who killed the Sioux and kept the horses. A Frenchman, too, who had lived many years among the Mandans, was lately killed on his route to the British Factory on the Assiniboin: some smaller differences existed between the two nations, all of which being discussed, the council decided that they would not resent the recent insults from the Assiniboins and Knistenaux until they had seen whether we had deceived them or not in our promises of furnishing them with arms and ammunition. They had been disappointed in their hopes of receiving them from Mr. Evans, and were afraid that we too, like him, might tell them what was not true. We advised them to continue at peace; that supplies of every kind would no doubt arrive for them, but that time was necessary to organize the trade. The fact is, that the

Assiniboina treat the Mandans as the Sioux do the Ricaras: by their vicinity to the British they get all the supplies, which they withhold or give at pleasure to the remoter Indians; the consequence is, that, however badly treated, the Mandans and Ricaras are very slow to retaliate, lest they should lose their trade altogether.

“November 19. The ice continues to float in the river, the wind high from the northwest, and the weather cold. Our hunters arrived from their excursion below, and bring a very fine supply of thirty-two deer, eleven elk, and five buffaloes, all of which were hung in a smokehouse.

“November 20. We this day moved into our huts which are now completed. This place, which we call Fort Mandan, is situated on a point of low ground on the north side of the Missouri, covered with tall and heavy cottonwood. The works consist of two rows of huts or sheds, forming an angle where they join each other: each row containing four rooms, of fourteen feet square and seven feet high, with plank ceiling, and the roof slanting so as to form a loft above the rooms, the highest part of which is eighteen feet from the ground. The backs of the huts form a wall of that height, and opposite the angle the place of the wall is supplied by picketing. In the area are two rooms for stores and provisions. The latitude, by observation, is  $47^{\circ} 21' 47''$ , and the computed distance from the mouth of the Missouri sixteen hundred miles.

“In the course of the day several Indians came down to partake of our fresh meat; among the rest, three chiefs of the second Mandan village. They in-

form us that the Sioux on the Missouri, above the Chayenne River, threaten to attack them this winter; that these Sioux are much irritated at the Ricaras for having made peace through our means with the Mandans, and have lately ill-treated three Ricaras, who carried the pipe of peace to them, by beating them, and taking away their horses. We gave them assurances that we would protect them from all their enemies.

“November 21. The weather was this day fine, the river clear of ice, and rising a little. We are now settled in our new winter habitation, and shall wait with much anxiety the first return of spring to continue our journey.

“The villages near which we are established are five in number, and are the residences of three distinct nations: the Mandans, the Ahnahaways, and the Minnetarees. The history of the Mandans, as we received it from our interpreters and from the chiefs themselves, and as it is attested by existing monuments, illustrates, more than that of any other, the unsteady movements and the tottering fortunes of the American nations. Within the recollection of living witnesses, the Mandans were settled, forty years ago, in nine villages ( the ruins of which we passed about eighty miles below), situated seven on the west and two on the east side of the Missouri. The two finding themselves wasting away before the smallpox and the Sioux, united into one village, and moved up the river opposite to the Ricaras. The same causes reduced the remaining seven to five villages, till at length they emigrated in a body to the Ricara nation, where they formed themselves into two villages, and



joined those of their countrymen who had gone before them. In their new residence they were still insecure, and at length the three villages ascended the Missouri to their present position. The two who had emigrated together settled in the two villages on the northwest side of the Missouri, while the single village took a position on the southeast side. In this situation they were found by those who visited them in 1796, since which the two villages have united into one. They are now in two villages, one on the southeast of the Missouri, the other on the opposite side, and at the distance of three miles across. The first, in an open plain, contains about forty or fifty lodges, built in the same way as those of the Ricaras; the second, the same number; and both may raise about three hundred and fifty men.

“On the same side of the river, and at the distance of four miles from the lower Mandan village, is another, called Mahaha. It is situated on a high plain, at the mouth of Knife River, and is the residence of the Ahnahaways. This nation, whose name indicates that they were “people whose village is on a hill,” formerly resided on the Missouri, about thirty miles below where they now live. The Assiniboins and Sioux forced them to a spot five miles higher, where the greatest part of them were put to death, and the rest emigrated to their present situation, in order to obtain an asylum near the Minnetarees. They are called by the French, Soulier Noir, or Black Shoe Indians; by the Mandans, Wattasoons; and their whole force is about fifty men.

“On the south side of the same Knife River, half a mile above the Mahaha, and in the same open plain

with it, is a village of the Minnetarees, surnamed Metaharta, who are about one hundred and fifty men in number. On the opposite side of Knife River, and one and a half miles above this village, is a second of Minnetarees, who may be considered as the proper Minnetaree nation. It is situated in a beautiful low plain, and contains four hundred and fifty warriors. The accounts which we received of the Minnetarees were contradictory. The Mandans say that this people came out of the water to the East, and settled near them in their former establishment, in nine villages; that they were very numerous, and fixed themselves in one village on the southern side of the Missouri. A quarrel about a buffalo divided the nation, of which two bands went into the plains, and were known by the name of Crow and Paunch Indians, and the rest moved to their present establishment. The Minnetarees proper assert, on the contrary, that they grew where they now live, and will never emigrate from the spot, the Great Spirit having declared that if they moved they would all die. They also say that the Minnetarees Metaharta, that is, Minnetarees of the Willows, whose language, with very little variation, is their own, came many years ago from the plains, and settled near them; and perhaps the two traditions may be reconciled by the natural presumption that these Minnetarees were the tribe known to the Mandans below, and that they ascended the river for the purpose of rejoining the Minnetarees proper. These Minnetarees are part of the great nation called Fall Indians, who occupy the intermediate country between the Missouri and the Saskashawan, and who are known by the name of Minnetarees of the Missouri and

Minnetarees of Fort de Prairie; that is, residing near, or, rather, frequenting the establishment in the prairie on the Saskashawan. These Minnetarees, indeed, told us that they had relations on the Saskashawan, whom they had never known till they met them in war; and, having engaged in the night, were astonished at discovering that they were fighting with men who spoke their own language. The name of Gros Ventres, or Big Bellies, is given to these Minnetarees, as well as to all the Fall Indians. The inhabitants of these five villages, all of which are within the distance of six miles live in harmony with each other. The Ahnaha-ways understand, in part, the language of the Minnetarees; the dialect of the Mandans differs widely from both; but their long residence together has insensibly blended their manners, and occasionally some approximation in language, particularly as to objects of daily occurrence, and obvious to the senses.

"November 22. The morning was fine and the day warm. We purchased from the Mandans a quantity of corn of a mixed colour, which they dug up in ears from holes made near the front of their lodges, in which it is buried during the winter. This morning the sentinel informed us that an Indian was about to kill his wife near the fort: we went down to the house of our interpreter, where we found the parties, and, after forbidding any violence, inquired into the cause of his intending to commit such an atrocity. It appeared that some days ago a quarrel had taken place between him and his wife, in consequence of which she had taken refuge in the house where the two squaws of our interpreter lived. By running away she forfeited her life, which might have been

lawfully taken by her husband. About two days ago she had returned to the village, but the same evening came back to the fort, much beaten, and stabbed in three places; and the husband came now for the purpose of completing his revenge." \* \* \* "We gave him a few presents, and tried to persuade him to take his wife home: the grand chief, too, happened to arrive at the same moment, and reproached him with his violence, till at length they went off together, but by no means in a state of much apparent love."

Nothing particularly interesting occurred for several days. Their huts were completed on the 25th, and it set in intensely cold immediately after. On the 27th, Captain Lewis, who had been absent on a visit to the Indian villages, "returned with two chiefs, Mahnatah, an Ahnahaway, and Minnessurraree, a Minnetaree, and a third warrior. They explained to us," continues the narrative, "that the reason of their not having come to see us was, that the Mandans had told them that we meant to combine with the Sioux, and cut them off in the course of the winter: a suspicion increased by the strength of the fort, and the circumstance of our interpreters having both removed with their families. These reports we did not fail to disprove to their entire satisfaction; and amused them by every attention, particularly by the dancing of the men which diverted them highly. All the Indians whom Captain Lewis had visited were very well disposed, and received him with great kindness, except a principal chief of one of the upper villages, named Mahpahpaparapassatoo, or Horned Weasel, who made use of the *civilized indecorum of refusing to be seen*; and, when Captain Lewis called, he was told the

chief *was not at home*. In the course of the day seven of the Northwest Company's traders arrived from the Assiniboin River, and one of their interpreters having undertaken to circulate among the Indians unfavourable reports, it became necessary to warn them of the consequences, if they did not desist from such proceedings. The river fell two inches to-day, and the weather became very cold.

"November 28. About eight o'clock last evening it began to snow, and continued till daybreak, after which it ceased till seven o'clock, but then resumed, and continued during the day, the weather being cold, and the river full of floating ice. About eight o'clock Poscopsahe came down to visit us, with some warriors: we gave them presents, and entertained them with all that might amuse their curiosity, and at parting we told them that we had heard of the British trader, M. Laroche, having attempted to distribute medals and flags among them, but that those medals could not be received from any other than the American nation without incurring the displeasure of their great father, the president. They left us much pleased with their treatment.

"November 29. The wind is again from the northwest, the weather cold, and the snow which fell yesterday and last night is thirteen inches in depth. The river closed during the night at the village above, and fell two feet; but this afternoon it began to rise a little. M. Laroche, the principal of the seven traders, came with one of his men to see us. We told him that we should not permit him to give medals and flags to the Indians; he declared that he had no such intention, and we then suffered him to make use of



one of our interpreters, on his stipulating not to touch any subject but that of his traffic with them. An unfortunate accident occurred to Sergeant Pryor, who, in taking down the boat's mast dislocated his shoulder; nor was it till after four trials that we replaced it.

"November 30. About eight o'clock an Indian came to the opposite bank of the river, calling out that he had something important to communicate; and, on sending for him, he told us that five Mandans had been met about eight leagues to the southwest by a party of Sioux, who had killed one of them, wounded two, and taken nine horses; that four of the Wattasoons were missing, and that the Mandans expected an attack. We thought this an excellent opportunity to discountenance the injurious reports against us, and to fix the wavering confidence of the nation. Captain Clarke, therefore, instantly crossed the river with twenty-three men, strongly armed, and circling the town, approached it from behind. His unexpected appearance surprised and alarmed the chiefs, who came out to meet him, and conducted him to the village. He then told them that, having heard of the outrage just committed, he had come to assist his dutiful children; that if they would assemble their warriors and those of the nation, he would lead them against the Sioux, and avenge the blood of their countrymen. After some minutes' conversation, Oheenaw, the Chayenne, arose: 'We now see,' he said, 'that what you have told us is true, since, as soon as our enemies threaten to attack us, you come to protect us, and are ready to chastise those who have spilled our blood. We did, indeed, listen to your

good talk ; for when you told us that the other nations were inclined to peace with us, we went out carelessly, in small parties, and some have been killed by the Sioux and Ricaras. But I know that the Ricaras were liars, and I told their chief who accompanied you that his whole nation were liars and bad men ; that we had several times made a peace with them, which they were the first to break ; that, whenever we pleased, we might shoot them like buffalo, but that we had no wish to kill them ; that we would not suffer them to kill us, nor steal our horses ; and that, although we agreed to make peace with them because our two fathers desired it, yet we did not believe that they would be faithful long. Such, father, was my language to them in your presence, and you see that, instead of listening to your good counsels, they have spilled our blood. A few days ago two Ricaras came here, and told us that two of their villages were making moccasins ; that the Sioux were stirring them up against us ; and that we ought to take care of our horses. Yet these very Ricaras we sent home as soon as the news reached us to-day, lest our people should kill them in the first moment of grief for their murdered relatives. Four of the Wattasoons, whom we expected back in sixteen days have been absent twenty-four, and we fear have fallen. But, father, the snow is now deep, the weather cold, and our horses cannot travel through the plains : the murderers have gone off. If you will conduct us in the spring, when the snow has disappeared, we will assemble all the surrounding warriors and follow you.'

"Captain Clarke replied that we were always willing and able to defend them ; that he was sorry

the snow prevented their marching to meet the Sioux, since he wished to show them that the warriors of their great father would chastise the enemies of his obedient children who opened their ears to his advice; that if some Ricaras had joined the Sioux, they should remember that there were bad men in every nation, and that they should not be offended at the Ricaras till they saw whether these ill-disposed men were countenanced by the whole tribe: that the Sioux possessed great influence over the Ricaras, whom they supplied with military stores, and sometimes led them astray, because they were afraid to oppose them; but that this should be the less offensive, since the Mandans themselves were under the same apprehensions from the Assiniboins and Knistenaux; and that, while they were thus dependent, both the Ricaras and Mandans ought to keep on terms with their powerful neighbours, whom they may afterward set at defiance, when we shall supply them with arms, and take them under our protection.

“After two hours’ conversation Captain Clarke left the village. The chief repeatedly thanked him for the fatherly protection he had given them, observing that the whole village had been weeping all night and day for the brave young man who had been slain, but now they would wipe their eyes and weep no more, as they saw that their father would protect them. He then crossed the river on the ice, and returned on the north side to the fort. The day as well as the evening was cold, and the river rose to its former height.

“December 1. The wind was from the northwest and the whole party engaged in picketing the fort.

About ten o'clock, the half brother of the man who had been killed came to inform us that six Sharhas, or Chayenne Indians, had arrived, bringing a pipe of peace, and that their nation was three days' march behind them. Three Pawnees had accompanied the Sharhas; and the Mandans, being afraid of the Sharhas on account of their being at peace with the Sioux, wished to put both them and the three Pawnees to death; but the chiefs had forbidden it, as it would be contrary to our wishes. We gave him a present of tobacco: and although, from his connexion with the sufferer, he was more embittered against the Pawnees than any other Mandan, yet he seemed perfectly well satisfied with our pacific counsels and advice. The Mandans, we observe, call all the Ricaras by the name of Pawnees; the name of Ricaras being that by which the nation distinguishes itself.

"In the evening we were visited by a Mr. Henderson, who came from the Hudson's Bay Company to trade with the Minnetarees. He had been about eight days on his route, in a direction nearly south, and brought with him tobacco, beads, and other merchandise, to trade for furs, and a few guns, which are to be exchanged for horses.

"December 2. The latter part of the evening was warm, and a thaw continued till the morning, when the wind shifted to the north. At eleven o'clock the chiefs of the lower village brought down four of the Sharhas. We explained to them our intentions, and advised them to remain at peace with each other: we also gave them a flag, some tobacco, and a speech for their nation. These were accompanied by a letter to Messrs. Tabeau and Gravelines at the Ricara vi-

lage, requesting them to preserve peace if possible, and to declare the part which we should be forced to take if the Ricaras and Sioux made war on those whom we had adopted. After distributing a few presents to the Sharhas and Mandans, and showing them our curiosities, we dismissed them, apparently well pleased at their reception.

“December 3. The morning was fine, but in the afternoon the weather became cold, with the wind from the northwest. The father of the Mandan who was killed brought us a present of dried pumpkins and some pemitigon, for which we gave him some small articles. Our offer of assistance to avenge the death of his son seemed to have produced a grateful respect from him, as well as from the brother of the deceased, which pleased us much.

“December 4. The wind continues from the northwest, the weather cloudy and raw, and the river rose one inch. Pocopsahe and two young chiefs pass the day with us. The whole religion of the Mandans consists in the belief of one Great Spirit presiding over their destinies. This being must be in the nature of a good genius, since it is associated with the healing art, and the great spirit is synonymous with great medicine, a name also applied to everything which they do not comprehend. Every individual selects for himself the particular object of his devotion, which is termed his medicine, and is either some invisible being, or, more commonly, some animal, which thenceforward becomes his protector, or his intercessor with the Great Spirit, to propitiate whom every attention is lavished, and every personal consideration is sacrificed. ‘I was lately owner of seventeen horses,’



said a Mandan to us one day, 'but I have offered them all up to my medicine, and am now poor.' He had, in reality, taken all his wealth—his horses—into the plain, and, turning them loose, committed them to the care of his medicine, and abandoned them forever."

\* \* \* "Their belief in a future state is connected with this tradition of their origin: The whole nation resided in one large village under ground, near a subterranean lake. A grape vine extended its roots down to their habitation, and gave them a view of the light. Some of the most adventurous climbed up the vine, and were delighted with the sight of the earth, which they found covered with buffalo, and rich with every kind of fruits. Returning with the grapes they had gathered, their countrymen were so pleased with the taste of them, that the whole nation resolved to leave their dull residence for the charms of the upper region. Men, women, and children ascended by means of the vine; but when about half the nation had reached the surface of the earth, a corpulent woman, who was clambering up the vine, broke it with her weight, and closed upon herself and the rest of the nation the light of the sun. Those who were left on the earth made a village below, where we saw the nine villages; and when the Mandans die they expect to return to the original seats of their forefathers, the good reaching the ancient village by means of the lake, which the burden of the sins of the wicked will not enable them to cross."

The frost increased, the thermometer standing at ten degrees above zero. "On the 7th," the narrative continues, "Shahaka, the chief of the lower village, came to apprise us that the buffalo were near, and

that his people were waiting for us to join them in the chase. "Captain Clarke, with fifteen men, went out, and found the Indians engaged in killing the buffalo. The hunters, mounted on horseback, and armed with bows and arrows, encircle the herd, and gradually drive them into a plain, or an open place fit for the movements of horse. They then ride among them, and, singling out a buffalo, a female being preferred, go as close as possible, and wound her with arrows till they think they have given the mortal stroke; when they pursue another, till the quiver is exhausted. If, which rarely happens, the wounded buffalo attacks the hunter, he evades the blow by the agility of his horse, which is trained for the combat with great dexterity. When they have killed the requisite number, they collect the game, and the squaws and attendants come up from the rear, and skin and dress the animals. Captain Clarke killed ten buffalo, of which five only were brought to the fort, the rest (which could not be conveyed home) being seized by the Indians; among whom the custom is, that whenever a buffalo is found dead, without any arrow or particular mark, he is the property of the finder; so that often a hunter secures scarcely any of the game he kills, if the arrow happens to fall off. Whatever is left out at night falls to the share of the wolves, who are the constant and numerous attendants of the buffalo. The river closed opposite the fort last night an inch and a half in thickness. In the morning the thermometer stood at one degree below zero. Three men were badly frostbitten in consequence of their exposure.

"December 8. The thermometer stood at twelve

degrees below zero, that is, at forty-two degrees below the freezing point: the wind was from the northwest. Captain Lewis, with fifteen men went out to hunt the buffalo, great numbers of which darkened the prairies for a considerable distance. They did not return till after dark, having killed eight buffalo and one deer. The hunt was, however, very fatiguing, as they were obliged to make a circuit to the distance of more than seven miles. The cold, too, was so excessive, that the air was filled with icy particles resembling a fog, and the snow was generally six or eight inches deep, and sometimes eighteen; in consequence of which, two of the party were hurt by falls, and several had their feet frostbitten.

"December 9. The wind was this day from the east, the thermometer at seven degrees above zero, and the sun shone clear, two chiefs visited us, one in a sleigh drawn by a dog, and loaded with meat.

"December 10. Captain Clarke, who had gone out yesterday with eighteen men to bring in the meat we had killed the day before and to continue the hunt, came in at twelve o'clock. After killing nine buffalo, and preparing that already dead, he had spent a cold disagreeable night on the snow, with no covering but a small blanket, sheltered by the hides of the buffalo they had killed. We observe large herds of buffalo crossing the river on the ice. The men who were frostbitten are recovering, but the weather is still exceedingly cold, the wind being from the north, and the thermometer at ten and eleven degrees below zero: the rise of the river is one inch and a half

"December 11. The weather became so intensely cold, that we sent for all the hunters who had remained out with Captain Clarke's party and they returned in the evening, several of them frostbitten. The wind was from the north, and the thermometer at sunrise stood at twenty-one below zero, the ice in the atmosphere being so thick as to render the weather hazy, and give the appearance of two suns reflecting each other. The river continues at a stand. Poscopsahe made us a visit to-day.

"December 12. The wind is still from the north, the thermometer being at sunrise thirty-eight degrees below zero. One of the Ahnahaways brought us down the half of an antelope killed near the fort. We had been informed that all these animals return to the Black Mountains; but there are great numbers of them about us at this season, which we might easily kill, but are unwilling to venture out before our constitutions are hardened gradually to the climate. We measured the river on the ice, and find it five hundred yards wide immediately opposite the fort."

"December 14. The morning was fine, and the weather having moderated so far that the mercury stood at zero, Captain Lewis went down with a party to hunt. They proceeded about eighteen miles; but, the buffalo having left the banks of the river, they saw only two, which were so poor as not to be worth killing, and shot two deer. Notwithstanding the snow, we were visited by a large number of the Mandans."

"December 16. The morning is clear and cold, the mercury at sunrise 22° below zero. A Mr. Haney, with two other persons from the British establishment

on the Assiniboin, arrived in six days, with a letter from Mr. Charles Chabouilles, one of the company, who, with much politeness, offered to render us any service in his power.

"December 17. The weather to-day was colder than any we had yet experienced, the thermometer at sunrise being  $45^{\circ}$  below zero, and about eight o'clock it fell to  $74^{\circ}$  below the freezing point. From Mr. Haney, who is a very sensible, intelligent man, we obtained much geographical information with regard to the country between the Missouri and Mississippi, and the various tribes of Sioux who inhabit it.

"December 18. The thermometer at sunrise was  $32^{\circ}$  below zero. The Indians had invited us yesterday to join their chase to-day, but the seven men whom we sent returned in consequence of the cold, which was so severe last night that we were obliged to have the sentinel relieved every half hour. The Northwest traders, however, left us on their return home.

"December 19. The weather moderated, and the river rose a little, so that we were enabled to continue the picketing of the fort. Notwithstanding the extreme cold, we observed the Indians at the village engaged out in the open air, at a game which resembled billiards more than anything we had seen, and which, we were inclined to suspect, might have been acquired by ancient intercourse with the French of Canada. From the first to the second chief's lodge a distance of about fifty yards was covered with timber, smoothed and joined so as to be as level as the floor of one of our houses, with a battery at the end to stop the rings. These rings were of claystone, and flat like the checkers for draughts; and the sticks



were about four feet long, with two short pieces at one end in the form of a mace, so fixed that the whole would slide along the board. Two men fix themselves at one end, each provided with a stick, and one of them with a ring: they then run along the board, and about half way slide the sticks after the ring.

"December 20. The wind was from the N. W., the weather moderate, the thermometer 24° above zero at sunrise. We availed ourselves of this change to picket the fort near the river.

"December 21. The day was fine and warm, the wind N. W. by W. The Indian who had been prevented a few days ago from killing his wife, came with both his wives to the fort, and was very desirous of reconciling our interpreter, a jealousy against whom, on account of his wife's taking refuge in his house, had been the cause of his animosity. A woman brought her child with an abscess in the lower part of the back, and offered as much corn as she could carry for some medicine: we administered to it, of course, very cheerfully.

"December 22. A number of squaws, and men dressed like squaws, brought corn to trade for small articles with the men. Among other things, we procured two horns of the animal called by the French the Rocky Mountain sheep, and known to the Mandans by the name of *ahsahta*. The animal itself is about the size of a small elk or large deer; the horns winding like those of a ram, which they resemble also in texture, though larger and thicker.

"December 23. The weather was fine and warm, like that of yesterday. We were again visited by crowds of Indians of all descriptions, who came either

to trade or from mere curiosity. Among the rest, Kogahami, the Little Raven, brought his wife and son loaded with corn, and she then entertained us with a favourite Mandan dish, a mixture of pumpkins, beans, corn, and chokecherries with the stones, all boiled together in a kettle, and forming a composition by no means unpalatable.

"December 24. The weather continued warm and pleasant, and the number of visitors became troublesome. As a present to three of the chiefs, we divided a fillet of sheepskin, which we had brought for sponging, into three pieces, each of two inches in width: they were delighted at the gift, which they deemed of equal value with a fine horse. We this day completed our fort, and the next morning, being Christmas,

"December 25, we were awakened before day by a discharge of three platoons from the party. We had told the Indians not to visit us, as it was one of our great medicine days; so that the men remained at home, and amused themselves in various ways, particularly with dancing, in which they take great pleasure. The American flag was hoisted for the first time in the fort; the best provisions we had were brought out, and this, with a little brandy, enabled them to pass the day in great festivity.

"December 26. The weather is again temperate, but no Indians have come to see us. One of the Northwest traders, who came down to request the aid of our Minnetaree interpreter, informs us that a party of Minnetarees, who had gone in pursuit of the Assiniboins who lately stole their horses, had just returned. As is their custom, they came back in small detachments the last of which brought home eight horses,

which they had captured or stolen from an Assiniboin camp on Mouse River." \* \* \*

"We were fortunate enough to have among our men a good blacksmith, whom we set at work to make a variety of articles. His operations seemed to surprise the Indians who came to see us, but nothing could equal their astonishment at the bellows, which they considered as a very great medicine. Having heretofore promised a more particular account of the Sioux, the following may serve as a general outline of their history.

"Almost the whole of that vast tract of country comprised between the Mississippi, the Red River of Lake Winnipeg, the Saskashawan, and the Missouri, is loosely occupied by a great nation, whose primitive name is Darcota, but who are called Sioux by the French, Sues by the English. Their original seats were on the Mississippi, but they have gradually spread themselves abroad, and become subdivided into numerous tribes. Of these, what may be considered as the Darcotas are the Mindawarcarton, or Minowakanton, known to the French by the name of the *Gens du Lac*, or People of the Lake. Their residence is on both sides of the Mississippi, near the Falls of St. Anthony, and the probable number of their warriors about three hundred. Above them, on the River St. Peter's, is the Wahpatone, a smaller band of nearly two hundred men; and still farther up the same river, below Yellow Wood River, are the Wahpatootas, or *Gens du Feuilles*, an inferior band of not more than one hundred men; while the sources of the St. Peter's are occupied by the Sisatoones, a band consisting of about two hundred warriors.

“These bands rarely, if ever, approach the Missouri, which is occupied by their kinsmen the Yanktons and the Teton. The Yanktons are of two tribes: those of the plains, or, rather, of the north—a wandering race of about five hundred men, who roam over the plains at the heads of the Jacques, the Sioux, and the Red Rivers; and those of the south, who possess the country between the Jacques and Sioux Rivers and the Des Moines. But the bands of Sioux most known on the Missouri are the Teton. The first who are met on ascending the Missouri are the tribe called by the French the Teton of the *Bois Brulé*, or Burned-wood, who reside on both sides of the Missouri, about White and Teton Rivers, and number two hundred warriors. Above them, on the Missouri, are the Teton Okandandas, a band of one hundred men, living below the Chayenne River, between which and the Wetarhoo River is a third band, called Teton Minnakenozzo, of nearly two hundred and fifty men; and below the Warreconne is the fourth and last tribe of Teton, of about three hundred men, and called Teton Saone. Northward of these, between the Assiniboin and the Missouri, are two bands of Assiniboins, one on Mouse River, of about two hundred men, and called Assiniboin Menatopa, the other residing on both sides of White River, called by the French *Gens du Feuilles*, and amounting to two hundred and fifty men. Beyond these, a band of Assiniboins of four hundred and fifty men, and called the Big Devils, wander on the heads of Milk, Porcupine, and Martha’s Rivers; while still farther to the north are seen two bands of the same nation, one of five hundred, and the other of two hundred, roving on the Saskashawan. Those

Assiniboina are recognized by a similarity of language, and by tradition, as descendants or seceders from the Sioux; though often at war, are still acknowledged as relations. The Sioux themselves, though scattered, meet annually on the Jacques, those on the Missouri trading with those on the Mississippi."

The weather was cold for the remainder of the month, with the thermometer at from ten to twenty degrees below zero. The Indians continued their visits for the purposes of traffic, and on these occasions were for the most part honest, though they would occasionally pilfer when they had a good opportunity of so doing.





## CHAPTER VI.

**The** Party increase in Favour.—A Buffalo Dance.—Medicine Dance.—The Fortitude with which the Indian bears the Severity of the Season.—Distress of the Party for want of Provisions.—The great Importance of the Blacksmith in procuring it.—Depredations of the Sioux.—The Homage paid to the Medicine Stone.—Summary Act of Justice among the Minnetarees.—The Process by which the Mandans and Ricaras make Beads.—Character of the Missouri and of the surrounding Country.

**J**ANUARY 1, 1805. The new year was welcomed by two shots from the swivel, and a round of small arms. The weather was cloudy, but moderate; the mercury, which at sunrise was at 18°, in the course of the day rose to 34° above zero: towards evening it began to rain, and at night we had snow, the temperature for which is about zero. In the morning we permitted sixteen men, with their music, to go up to the first village, where they delighted the whole tribe with their dances, particularly with the movements of one of the Frenchmen, who danced on his head. In return, they presented the dancers with several buffalo robes and quantities of corn. We were desirous of showing this attention to the village, because they had received an impression that we had been wanting in regard for them, and because they had, in consequence, circulated invidious comparisons between us and the northern traders; all these, however, they declared to Captain Clarke, who visited them in the course of the morning, were made

in jest. As Captain Clarke was about leaving the village, two of their chiefs returned from a mission to the Gros Ventres, or wandering Minnetarees. These people were encamped about ten miles above, and while there one of the Ahnahaways had stolen a Minnetaree girl. The whole nation immediately espoused the quarrel, and one hundred and fifty of their warriors were marching down to revenge the insult on the Ahnahaways. The chief of that nation took the girl from the ravisher, and, giving her to the Mandans, requested their intercession. The messengers went out to meet the warriors, and delivered the young damsel into the hands of her countrymen, smoked the pipe of peace with them, and were fortunate enough to avert their indignation and induce them to return. In the evening some of the men came to the fort, and the rest slept in the village. Poscopsahe also visited us, and brought some meat on his wife's back.

"January 2. It snowed last night, and during this day the same scene of gayety was renewed at the second village, and all the men returned in the evening.

"January 3. Last night it became very cold, and this morning we had some snow. Our hunters were sent out for buffalo, but the game had been frightened from the river by the Indians, so that they obtained only one; they, however, killed a hare and a wolf. Among the Indians who visited us was a Minnetaree, who came to seek his wife: she had been much abused, and came here for protection, but returned with him, as we had no authority to separate those whom even the Mandan rites had united.

"January 4. The morning was cloudy and warm,

the mercury being  $28^{\circ}$  above zero; but towards evening the wind changed to northwest, and the weather became cold. We sent some hunters down the river, but they killed only one buffalo and a wolf. We received the visit of Kagohami, who is very friendly, and to whom we gave a handkerchief and two files.

"January 5. We had high and boisterous winds last night and this morning. The Indians continue to purchase repairs with grain of different kinds. In the first village there has been a Buffalo dance for the last three nights, which has put them all into commotion." \* \* \* "When buffalo becomes scarce, they send a man to harangue the village, declaring that the game is far off, and that a feast is necessary to bring it back; and, if the village be disposed, a day and place is named for the celebration of it." Besides this, there is another called the Medicine dance, which is given by any person desirous of doing honour to his medicine or genius. He announces that on such a day he will sacrifice his horses or other property, and invites the girls of the village to assist in rendering homage to his medicine. All the inhabitants may join in the celebration, which is performed in the open plain, and by daylight; but the dance is reserved altogether for the young unmarried females. The ceremony commences with devoting the goods of the master of the feast to his medicine, which is represented by a head of the animal to be offered, or by a medicine bag, if the deity be an invisible being. The dance follows; which, as well as that of the buffalo, consists of little more than an exhibition of the most foul and revolting indecencies.

"January 9. The thermometer at sunrise was 21

degrees below zero. Kagohami breakfasted with us, and Captain Clarke, with three or four men, accompanied him and a party of Indians to hunt, in which they were so fortunate as to kill a number of buffalo; but they were incommoded by snow, by high and squally winds, and by extreme cold. Several of the Indians came to the fort nearly frozen, others are missing, and we are uneasy for one of our men, who was separated from the rest during the chase, and has not returned. In the morning, however, he came back just as we were sending out five men in search of him. The night had been excessively cold, and this morning, January 10th, at sunrise the mercury stood at 40 degrees below zero, or 72 below the freezing point. He had, however, made a fire, and kept himself tolerably warm. A young Indian, about thirteen years of age, also came in soon after. His father, who came last night to inquire after him very anxiously, had sent him in the afternoon to the fort. He was overtaken by the night, and was obliged to sleep on the snow, with no covering except a pair of antelope-skin mocasins and leggins, and a buffalo robe: his feet being frozen, we put them into cold water, and gave him every attention in our power. About the same time, an Indian who had also been missing returned to the fort; and although his dress was very thin, and he had slept on the snow without a fire, he had not suffered the slightest inconvenience. We have, indeed, observed that these Indians support the rigours of the season in a way which we had hitherto thought impossible. A more pleasing reflection occurred at seeing the warm interest which the situation of these two persons had excited in the village. The boy had

been a prisoner, and adopted from charity; yet the distress of the father proved that he felt for him the tenderest affection. The man was a person of no distinction, yet the whole village was full of anxiety for his safety; and, when they came to us, borrowed a sleigh to bring them home with ease if they had survived, or to carry their bodies if they had perished."

The cold was at this time intense, the thermometer ranging from 20° to 38° below zero.

"January 13. Nearly one half of the Mandan nation passed down the river to hunt for several days. In these excursions, men, women, and children, with their dogs, all leave the village together, and, after discovering a spot convenient for the game, fix their tents; all the family bear their part in the labour, and the game is equally divided among the families of the tribe. When a single hunter returns from the chase with more than is necessary for his own immediate consumption, the neighbours are entitled by custom to a share of it: they do not, however, ask for it, but send a squaw, who, without saying anything, sits down by the door of the lodge till the master understands the hint, and gives her gratuitously a part for her family. Chaboneau and another man, who had gone to some lodges of Minnetarees near the Turtle Mountain, returned with their faces much frostbitten. They had been about ninety miles distant, and procured from the inhabitants some meat and grease, with which they loaded the horses. He informed us that the agent of the Hudson's Bay Company at that place had been endeavouring to make unfavourable impressions with regard to us on the mind of the great chief, and that the Northwest Com-



pany intended building a fort there. The great chief had, in consequence, spoken slightly of the Americans; but said that, if we would give him our great flag, he would come and see us.

"January 14. The Mandans continued to pass down the river on their hunting-party, and were joined by six of our men. One of those sent on Thursday returned with information that one of his companions had his feet so badly frostbitten that he could not walk home. In their excursion they had killed a buffalo, a wolf, two porcupines, and a white hare. The weather was more moderate to-day, the mercury being at  $16^{\circ}$  below zero, and the wind from the southeast: we had, however, some snow, after which it remained cloudy.

"January 15. The morning is much warmer than yesterday, and the snow begins to melt, though the wind, after being for some time from the southeast, suddenly shifted to northwest. Between twelve and three o'clock A. M., there was a total eclipse of the moon, from which we obtained a part of the observation necessary for ascertaining the longitude.

"We were visited by four of the most distinguished men of the Minnetarees, to whom we showed marked attentions, as we knew that they had been taught to entertain strong prejudices against us. These we succeeded so well in removing, that when, in the morning,

"January 16th, about thirty Mandans, among whom six were chiefs, came to see us, the Minnetarees reproached them with their falsehoods, declaring that they were bad men, and ought to hide themselves. They had told the Minnetarees that we would kill them

if they came to the fort; yet, on the contrary, they had spent a night there; and been treated with kindness by the whites, who had smoked with them, and danced for their amusement. Kagohami visited us, and brought us a little corn; and soon afterward one of the chiefs of the Minnetarees came, accompanied by his squaw, a handsome woman. He favoured us with a very acceptable present, a draught of the Missouri, in his manner; and informed us of his intention to go to war in the spring against the Snake Indians. We advised him to think seriously before he committed the peace of his nation to the hazards of war; to look back on the numerous nations whom war had destroyed; that if he wished his nation to be happy, he should cultivate peace and intercourse with all his neighbours, by which means they would procure more horses and increase in numbers; and that, if he went to war, he would displease his great father the president, and forfeit his protection. We added, that we had spoken thus to all the tribes whom we had met; that they had all opened their ears; and that the president would compel those who did not voluntarily listen to his advice. Although a young man of only twenty-six years of age, this discourse seemed to strike him. He observed that, if it would be displeasing to us, he would not go to war, since he had horses enough; and that he would advise all the nation to remain at home until we had seen the Snake Indians, and discovered whether their intentions were pacific."

The weather during the remainder of the month was variable, and not as cold as it had been. Several attempts were made to disengage the boats from the ice, but they were unsuccessful. On the 18th they

were visited by Messrs. Laroche and M'Kenzie, two of the Northwest Company's traders, accompanied by some of the Minnetarees. The neighbouring Indians made frequent visits to the encampment, bringing their household utensils to be repaired, and corn to pay for it.

"February 1. Our hunters returned, having killed only one deer. One of the Minnetaree war-chiefs, a young man named Maubukshahokeah, or Seeing Snake, came to see us, and procured a war-hatchet. He also requested that we would suffer him to go to war against the Sioux and Ricaras, who had killed a Mandan some time ago; this we refused, for reasons which we explained to him. He acknowledged that we were right, and promised to open his ears to our counsels."

\* \* \* "February 4. The morning fair and cold, the mercury at sunrise being  $18^{\circ}$  below zero, and the wind from the northwest. The stock of meat which we had procured in November and December being now nearly exhausted, it became necessary to renew our supply. Captain Clarke, therefore, took eighteen men, and, with two sleighs and three horses, descended the river for the purpose of hunting, as the buffalo has disappeared from our neighbourhood, and the Indians are themselves suffering for want of meat. Two deer were killed to-day, but they were very lean.

"February 5. A pleasant, fair morning, with the wind from the northwest. A number of the Indians came with corn for the blacksmith, who, being now provided with coal, has become one of our greatest resources for procuring grain. They seem to be particularly attached to a battle-axe of a very incon-

venient figure. It is made wholly of iron, the blade extremely thin, and from seven to nine inches long; it is sharp at the point, and five or six inches on each side, whence it converges towards the eye, which is circular, and about an inch in diameter, the blade itself being not more than an inch wide. The handle is straight, and twelve or fifteen inches long, the whole weighing about a pound. By way of ornament, the blade is perforated with several circular holes. The length of the blade, compared with the shortness of the handle, renders it a weapon of very little strength, particularly as it is always used on horseback. There is still, however, another form which is even worse, the same sort of handle being fixed to a blade resembling a spontoon.

“February 6. The morning was fair and pleasant, the wind northwest. A number of Indian chiefs visited us, and withdrew after we had smoked with them, contrary to their custom; for, after being once introduced into our apartment, they are fond of lounging about during the remainder of the day. One of the men killed three antelopes. Our blacksmith has his time completely occupied, so great is the demand for utensils of different kinds. The Indians are particularly fond of sheet-iron, out of which they form points for arrows, and instruments for scraping hides; and, when the blacksmith cut up an old cambouse of that metal, we obtained, for every piece of four inches square, seven or eight gallons of corn from the Indians, who were delighted at the exchange.

“February 7. The morning was fair, and much warmer than for some days, the thermometer being at 18° above zero, and the wind from the southeast.

A number of Indians continue to visit us; but, learning that the interpreter's squaws had been accustomed to unbar the gate during the night, we ordered a lock to be put on it, and that no Indian should remain in the fort all night, nor any person be admitted during the hours when the gate is closed, that is, from sunset to sunrise.

"February 8. A fair, pleasant morning, with south-east winds. Pocopsahe came down to the fort with a bow, and apologized for his not having finished a shield which he had promised Captain Lewis, and which the weather had prevented him from completing. This chief possesses more firmness, intelligence, and integrity than any Indian of this country, and he might be rendered highly serviceable in our attempts to civilize the nation. He mentioned that the Mandans are very much in want of meat, and that he himself had not tasted any for several days. To this distress they are often reduced by their own improvidence, or by their unhappy situation. Their principal article of food is buffalo meat, their beans, corn, and other grain being reserved for summer, or as a last resource against what they constantly dread, an attack from the Sioux, who drive off the game, and confine them to their villages. The same fear, too, prevents their going out to hunt in small parties to relieve their occasional wants, so that the buffalo is generally obtained in large quantities, and wasted by carelessness."

The next day they were visited by Mr. M'Kenzie, from the Northwest Company's establishment. Information was received that their horses were below, loaded with meat, but unable to cross the ice from not



being shod. The weather for several days continued moderate.

“February 12. The morning,” continues the narrative, “is fair, though cold, the mercury being  $14^{\circ}$  below zero, the wind from the southeast. About four o’clock the horses were brought in much fatigued; on giving them meal-bran moistened with water, they would not eat it, but preferred the bark of the cottonwood, which, as has been already observed, forms their principal food during the winter. The horses of the Mandans are so often stolen by the Sioux, Ricaras, and Assiniboins, that the invariable rule now is, to put the horses every night in the same lodge with the family. In the summer they ramble in the plains in the vicinity of the camp, and feed on the grass; but during cold weather the squaws cut down the cottonwood trees as they are wanted, and the horses feed on the boughs and bark of the tender branches, which are also brought into the lodges at night and placed near them. These animals are very severely treated; for whole days they are pursuing the buffalo, or burdened with the fruits of the chase, during which they scarcely ever taste food, and at night return to a scanty allowance of wood: yet the spirit of this valuable animal sustains him through all these difficulties, and he is rarely deficient either in flesh or vigour.

“February 13. The morning was cloudy; the thermometer at  $2^{\circ}$  below zero: the wind from the southeast. Captain Clarke returned last evening with all his hunting party. During their excursion they had killed forty deer, three buffalo, and sixteen elk; but most of the game was too lean for use, and the wolves, which regard whatever lies out at night as

their own, had appropriated a large part of it. When he left the fort on the 4th instant, he descended on the ice twenty-two miles to New Mandan Island, near some of their old villages, and encamped forty-four miles from the fort, on a sandpoint near the mouth of a creek on the southwest side, which they called Hunting Creek, and during this and the following day hunted through all the adjoining plains with much success, having killed a number of deer and elk. On the 8th, the best of the meat was sent with the horses to the fort; and such parts of the remainder as were fit for use were brought to a point of the river three miles below, and, after the bones were taken out, secured in pens built of logs, so as to keep off the wolves, ravens, and magpies, which are very numerous, and constantly disappoint the hunter of his prey. They then went to the low grounds near the Chisshetaw River, where they encamped, but saw nothing except some wolves on the hills, and a number of buffalo too poor to be worth hunting. The next morning, the 9th, as there was no game, and it would have been inconvenient to send it back sixty miles to the fort, they returned up the river, and for three days hunted along the banks and plains, and reached the fort in the evening of the 12th, much fatigued, having walked thirty miles that day on the ice and through the snow, in many places knee deep, their moccasins too, being nearly worn out. The only game which they saw, besides what is mentioned, were some grouse on the sand-bars in the river.

“February 14. Last night the snow fell three inches deep, but the day was fine. Four men were despatched with sleds and three horses, to bring up

the meat which had been collected by the hunters. They returned, however, with intelligence that, about twenty-one miles below the fort, a party of upward of one hundred men, whom they supposed to be Sioux, rushed on them, cut the traces of the sleds, and carried off two of the horses, the third being given up by the intercession of an Indian who seemed to possess some authority over them; they also took away two of the men's knives and a tomahawk, which last, however, they returned. We sent up to the Mandans to inform them of it, and to know whether any of them would join a party which intended to pursue the robbers in the morning. About twelve o'clock two of their chiefs came down, and said that all their young men were out hunting, and that there were few guns in the village. Several Indians, however, armed, some with bows and arrows, some with spears and battle-axes, and two with fusils, accompanied Captain Lewis, who set out on the 15th, at sunrise, with twenty-four men. The morning was fine and cool, the thermometer being at  $16^{\circ}$  below zero. In the course of the day, one of the Mandan chiefs returned from Captain Lewis's party, his eyesight having become so bad that he could not proceed. At this season of the year, the reflection from the ice and snow is so intense as to occasion almost total blindness. This complaint is very common, and the general remedy is to sweat the part affected by holding the face over a hot stove, and receiving the fumes from snow thrown on it."

The weather became milder, and on the 16th the mercury rose to  $32^{\circ}$  above zero. Their stock of meat being exhausted, they were obliged to live on vegetable

diet, in which they suffered but little inconvenience, as the Indians supplied them plentifully with corn.

"February 20. The day was delightfully fine," continues the Journal, "the mercury being at sunrise  $2^{\circ}$ , and in the course of the day  $22^{\circ}$  above zero, the wind southerly. Kagohami came down to see us early. His village is afflicted by the death of one of their oldest men, who, from his account to us, must have been one hundred and twenty winters. Just as he was dying, he requested his grandchildren to dress him in his best robe when he was dead, and then carry him to a hill and seat him on a stone, with his face down the river towards their old villages, that he might go straight to his brother, who had passed before him to the ancient village under ground. We have seen a number of Mandans who have lived to a great age; chiefly, however, the men, whose robust exercises fortify the body, while the labourious occupations of the women shorten their existence.

"February 21. We had a continuation of the same pleasant weather. Oheenaw and Shahaka came down to see us, and mentioned that several of their countrymen had gone to consult their *medicine stone* as to the prospects of the following year. This medicine stone is the great oracle of the Mandans, and whatever it announces is believed with implicit confidence. Every spring, and, on some occasions, during the summer, a deputation visits the sacred spot, where there is a thick porous stone twenty feet in circumference with a smooth surface. Having reached the place, the ceremony of smoking to it is performed by the deputies, who alternately take a whiff themselves, and then present the pipe to the stone; after this they re-

tire to an adjoining wood for the night, during which it may be safely presumed that all the embassy do not sleep, and in the morning they read the destinies of the nation in the white marks on the stone, which those who made them are at no loss to decipher. The Minnetarees have a stone of a similar kind, which has the same qualities, and the same influence over the nation.

“Captain Lewis returned from his excursion in pursuit of the Indians. On reaching the place where the Sioux had stolen our horses, they found only one sled and several pairs of moccasins, which were recognized to be those of the Sioux. The party then followed the Indian tracks till they reached two old lodges, where they slept, and the next morning pursued the course of the river till they reached some Indian camps, where Captain Clarke passed the night some time ago, and which the Sioux had now set on fire, leaving a little corn near the place, in order to induce a belief that they were Ricaras. From this point the Sioux’ tracks left the river abruptly and crossed into the plains; but, perceiving that there was no chance of overtaking them, Captain Lewis went down to the pen where Captain Clarke had left some meat, which he found untouched by the Indians, and then hunted in the low grounds on the river, till he returned with about three thousand pounds of meat (some drawn in a sled by fifteen of the men, and the rest brought on horseback), having killed thirty-six deer, fourteen elk, and one wolf.”

The weather was now mild and pleasant, and the ice in the river so far thawed that they were enabled to extricate their boats, and draw them up on the bank. They were all busily engaged in preparing the



necessary tools for building boats of a smaller size, in which to continue their voyage up the Missouri. "On the 28th of February," says the Journal, "sixteen men were sent out to examine the country for trees suitable for boats, and were successful in finding them. Two of the Northwest Company's traders arrived with letters. They had likewise a root which is used for the cure of persons bitten by mad dogs, snakes, and other venomous animals: it is found on high grounds and the sides of hills, and the mode of using it is to scarify the wound, and apply to it an inch or more of the chewed or pounded root, which is to be renewed twice a day; the patient must not, however, chew or swallow any of the root, as an inward application might be rather injurious than beneficial.

"M. Gravelines, with two Frenchmen and two Indians, arrived from the Ricara nation, with letters from Mr. Anthony Tabeau. This last gentleman informs us that the Ricaras express their determination to follow our advice, and to remain at peace with the Mandans and Minnetarees, whom they are desirous of visiting: they also wish to know whether these nations would permit the Ricaras to settle near them, and form a league against their common enemies, the Sioux. On mentioning this to the Mandans, they agreed to it; observing that they always desired to cultivate friendship with the Ricaras, and that the Ahnahaways and Minnetarees had the same friendly views.

"M. Gravelines states that the band of Tetons whom we had seen was well disposed to us, owing to the influence of their chief, the Black Buffalo; but that the three upper bands of Tetons, with the Sisatoons, and the Yanktons of the north, meant soon to attack

the Indians in this quarter, with a resolution to put to death every white man they encountered. Moreover, that Mr. Cameron, of St. Peter's, has lately armed the Sioux against the Chippeways, who have recently put to death three of his men. The men who had stolen our horses we found to be all Sioux, who, after committing the outrage, went to the Ricara villages, where they said they had hesitated about killing our men who were with the horses, but that in future they would put to death any of us they could, as we were bad medicines, and deserved to be killed. The Ricaras were displeased at their conduct, and refused to give them anything to eat, which is deemed the greatest act of hostility short of actual violence."

The party were employed in building their new boats, in making ropes, preparing charcoal, and manufacturing battle-axes to exchange for corn. The weather was mild and agreeable.

"March 6. The day was cloudy and smoky," says the Journal, "in consequence of the burning of the plains by the Minnetarees. They have set all the neighbouring country on fire, in order to obtain an early crop of grass which may answer for the consumption of their horses, and also as an inducement for the buffalo and other game to visit it. Some horses stolen two days ago by the Assiniboina have been returned to the Minnetarees. Ohhaw, second chief of the lower Minnetaree village, came to see us. The river rose a little, and overran the ice, so as to render the crossing difficult." \* \* \*

"March 9. The morning cloudy and cool, the wind from the north. The grand chief of the Minnetarees, who is called by the French Le Borgne, from

his having but one eye, came down for the first time to the fort. He was received with much attention, two guns were fired in honour of his arrival, the curiosities were exhibited to him, and, as he said that he had not received the presents which we had sent to him on his arrival, we again gave him a flag, medal, shirt, arm-braces and the usual presents on such occasions, with all which he was much pleased. In the course of the conversation, the chief observed that some foolish young men of the nation had told him there was a person among us who was quite black, and he wished to know if it could be true. We assured him that it was true, and sent for York: The Borgne was very much surprised at his appearance, examined him closely, and spit on his finger and rubbed the skin, in order to wash off the paint; nor was it until the negro uncovered his head, and showed his short hair, that he could be persuaded that he was not a painted white man.

“March 10. A cold, windy day. Tetuckopinreha, chief of the Ahnahnaways, and the Minnetaree chief Ompschara, passed the day with us, and the former remained during the night. We had opportunity to see an instance of the summary justice of the Indians. A young Minnetaree had carried off the daughter of Cagonomokshe, the Raven Man, second chief of the upper village of the Mandans: the father went to the village and found his daughter, whom he brought home, and took with him a horse belonging to the offender. This reprisal satisfied the vengeance of the father and of the nation, as the young man would not dare to reclaim his horse, which from that time became the property of the injured party. The steal-

ing of young women is one of the most common offences against the police of the village, and the punishment of it is always measured by the power or the passions of the kindred of the female. A voluntary elopement is, of course, more rigorously chastized. One of the wives of The Borgne deserted him in favour of a man who had been her lover before the marriage, and who, after some time, left her, so that she was obliged to return to her father's house. As soon as he heard it, The Borgne walked there, and found her sitting near the fire. Without noticing his wife, he began to smoke with the father, when they were joined by the old men of the village, who, knowing his temper, had followed in hopes of appeasing him. He continued to smoke quietly with them till rising to return, when he took his wife by the hair, led her as far as the door, and with a single stroke of his tomahawk put her to death before her father's eyes: then, turning fiercely upon the spectators, he said that, if any of her relations wished to avenge her, they might always find him at his lodge; but the fate of the woman had not sufficient interest to excite the vengeance of the family. The caprice or the generosity of the same chief gave a very different result to a similar incident which occurred some time afterward. Another of his wives eloped with a young man, who, not being able to support her as she wished, they both returned to the village, and she presented herself before the husband, supplicating his pardon for her conduct. The Borgne sent for the lover: at the moment when the youth expected that he would be put to death, the chief mildly asked them if they still preserved their affection for each other;



and on their declaring that want, and not a change of affection, had induced them to return, he gave up his wife to her lover, with the liberal present of three horses, and restored them both to his favour."

On the 13th they received a visit from Mr. M'Kenzie. The smiths had as much as they could do in making battle-axes, which the Indians eagerly sought for, and for which they paid liberally in corn.

"March 16. The weather," continues the narrative, "is cloudy, the wind from the southeast. A Mr. Garrow, a Frenchman, who has resided a long time among the Ricaras and Mandans, explained to us the mode in which they make their large beads: an art which they are said to have derived from some prisoners of the Snake Indian nation, and the knowledge of which is a secret even now confined to a few among the Mandans and Ricaras. The process is as follows: glass of different colours is first pounded fine and washed, till each kind, which is kept separate, ceases to stain the water thrown over it. Some well-seasoned clay, mixed with a sufficient quantity of sand to prevent its becoming very hard when exposed to heat, and reduced by water to the consistency of dough, is then rolled on the palm of the hand till it becomes of the thickness wanted for the hole in the bead: these sticks of clay are placed upright, each on a little pedestal or ball of the same material, about an ounce in weight, and distributed ever a small earthen platter, which is laid on the fire for a few minutes, when they are taken off to cool. With a little paddle or shovel three or four inches long, and sharpened at the end of the handle, the wet pounded glass is placed in the palm of the hand: the beads are



made of an oblong shape, wrapped in a cylindrical form round the stick of clay, which is laid crosswise over it, and gently rolled backward and forward till it becomes perfectly smooth. If it be desired to introduce any other colour, the surface of the bead is perforated with the pointed end of the paddle, and the cavity filled with pounded glass of that colour. The sticks, with the strings of beads, are then replaced on their pedestals, and the platter deposited on burning coals or hot embers. Over the platter, an earthen pot, containing about three gallons, with a mouth large enough to cover the platter, is reversed, being completely closed except a small aperture at the top, through which are watched the beads: a quantity of old dried wood, formed into a sort of dough or paste, is placed round the pot, so as almost to cover it, and afterward set on fire. The manufacturer then looks through the small hole in the pot till he sees the beads assume a deep red colour, to which succeeds a paler or whitish red, or they become pointed at the upper extremity; on which the fire is removed, and the pot suffered to cool gradually: at length it is removed, the beads taken out, the clay in the hollow of them picked out with an awl or needle, and they are then fit for use. The beads thus formed are in great demand among the Indians, and used as pendants to their ears and hair, and are sometimes worn round the neck.

“ March 17. A windy, but clear and pleasant day, the river rising a little, and open in several places. Our Minnetaree interpreter, Chaboneau, whom we intended taking with us to the Pacific, had some days ago been worked upon by the British traders, and appeared unwilling to accompany us, except on cer-

tain terms: such as his not being subject to our orders, and to do duty or to return whenever he chose. As we saw clearly the source of his hesitation, and knew that it was intended as an obstacle to our views, we told him that the terms were inadmissible, and that we could dispense with his services: he had accordingly left us with some displeasure. Since then he had made an advance towards joining us, which we showed no anxiety to meet; but this morning he sent an apology for his improper conduct, and agreed to go with us, and perform the same duties as the rest of the corps; we therefore took him again into our service."

Information was received that the Sioux had lately attacked a party of the Assiniboins and Knistenaux, and killed fifty of them. There was every appearance of an approaching war, two parties of the Minnetarees having already gone out, and a third was preparing to follow them. The canoes were now finished, and "four of them," says the Journal, "were carried down to the river, at the distance of a mile and a half from where they were constructed. On the 21st the remaining pirogues were hauled to the same place, and all the men except three, who were left to watch them, returned to the fort. On his way down, which was about six miles, Captain Clarke passed along the points of the high hills, where he saw large quantities of pumice-stone on the foot, sides, and tops of the hills, which had every appearance of having been at some period on fire. He collected specimens of the stone itself, the pumice-stone, and the hard earth; and on being put into the furnace, the hard earth melted and glazed, the pumice-stone melted, and the hard stone became a pumice-stone glazed."

## CHAPTER VII.

Indian Method of Attacking the Buffalo on the Ice.—Presents sent to the President of the United States.—Visit from a Ricara Chief.—They leave their Encampment, and proceed on their Journey.—Description of the Little Missouri.—Some Account of the Assiniboins.—Their Mode of burying the Dead.—Whiteearth River.—Great Quantity of Salt discovered on its Banks.—Yellowstone River.—Account of the Country at the Confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri.—Description of the Missouri and the surrounding Country.

THE remainder of the month was mild and fair, and the party were actively engaged in completing their arrangements for departure. The canoes were carefully caulked and pitched, and the barge was made ready for such as were to return from this point down the Missouri. The ice began to break up and pass off as the water rose, and they only waited for the river to be clear of this obstruction to resume their journey. "On the 29th," says the journalist, "the ice came down in great quantities, the river having fallen eleven inches in the course of the last twenty-four hours. We have had few Indians at the fort for the last three or four days, as they are now busy in catching the floating buffaloes. Every spring, as the river is breaking up, the surrounding plains are set on fire, and the buffaloes are tempted to cross the river in search of the fresh grass which immediately succeeds to the burning. On their way they are often insulated on a large cake or mass of ice, which floats down the river. The Indians now select the most

favourable points for attack, and, as the buffalo approaches, dart with astonishing agility across the trembling ice, sometimes pressing lightly a cake of not more than two feet square. The animal is of course unsteady, and his footsteps insecure on this new element, so that he can make but little resistance; and the hunter, who has given him his death-wound, paddles his icy boat to the shore, and secures his prey." \* \* \*

"April 1. This morning there was a thunder-storm, accompanied with large hail, to which succeeded rain for about half an hour. We availed ourselves of this interval to get all the boats in the water. At four o'clock P. M. it began to rain a second time, and continued till twelve at night. With the exception of a few drops at two or three different times, this is the first rain we have had since the 15th of October last."

On the 3d they were engaged in packing up their baggage and merchandise. Several elk had been killed the day before by the Mandans, but they were so poor as to be of little use.

"April 4. The day is clear and pleasant," continues the narrative, "though the wind is high from the N. W. We now packed up, in different boxes, a variety of articles for the president, which we shall send in the barge. They consist of a stuffed male and female antelope, with their skeletons, a weasel, three squirrels from the Rocky Mountains, the skeleton of a prairie wolf, those of a white and gray hare, a male and female *blaireau*, or burrowing dog of the prairie, with a skeleton of the female, two burrowing squirrels, a white weasel, and the skin of the *louservia*,

the horns of a mountain ram, or big-horn, a pair of large elk horns, the horns and tail of a black-tailed deer, and a variety of skins, such as those of the red fox, white hare, marten, yellow bear, obtained from the Sioux; also a number of articles of Indian dress, among which was a buffalo robe representing a battle fought about eight years since between the Sioux and Ricaras against the Mandans and Minnetarees, in which the combatants are represented on horseback."

\* \* \* "Such sketches, rude and imperfect as they are, delineate the predominant character of the savage nations. If they are peaceable and inoffensive, the drawings usually consist of local scenery and their favourite diversions. If the band are rude and ferocious, we observe tomahawks, scalping-knives, bows and arrows, and all the engines of destruction.—A Mandan bow, and quiver of arrows; also some Ricara tobacco-seed, and an ear of Mandan corn: to these were added a box of plants, another of insects, and three cases containing a burrowing squirrel, a prairie hen and four magpies, all alive." \* \* \*

"April 6. Another fine day, with a gentle breeze from the south. The Mandans continued to come to the fort, and in the course of the day informed us of the arrival of a party of Ricaras on the other side of the river. We sent our interpreter to inquire into their reason for coming; and in the morning,

"April 7th, he returned with a Ricara chief and three of his nation. The chief, whose name is Kagohweto, or Brave Raven, brought a letter from M. Tabeau, mentioning the wish of the grand chiefs of the Ricaras to visit the president, and requesting permission for himself and four men to join our boat



when it descends; to which we consented, as it will be manned with fifteen hands, and be able to defend itself against the Sioux. After presenting the letter, he told us that he was sent with ten warriors by his nation to arrange their settling near the Mandans and Minnetarees, whom they wished to join; that he considered all the neighbouring nations friendly except the Sioux, whose persecution they could no longer withstand, and whom they hoped to repel by uniting with the tribes in this quarter: he added that the Ricaras intended to follow our advice, and live in peace with all nations, and requested that we would speak in their favour to the Assiniboin Indians. This we willingly promised to do, and assured them that their great father would protect them, and no longer suffer the Sioux to have good guns or to injure his dutiful children. We then gave him a small medal, a certificate of his good conduct, a carrot of tobacco, and some wampum, with which he departed for the Mandan village, well satisfied with his reception. Having made all our arrangements, we left the fort about five o'clock in the afternoon. The party now consisted of thirty-two persons. Besides ourself were sergeants John Ordway, Nathaniel Pryor, and Patrick Gass; the privates were William Bratton, John Colter, John Collins, Peter Crusatte, Robert Frazier, Reuben Fields, Joseph Fields, George Gibson, Silas Goodrich, Hugh Hall, Thomas R. Howard, Baptiste Lapage, Francis Labische, Hugh M'Neil, John Potts, John Shields, George Shannon, John B. Thompson, William Werner, Alexander Willard, Richard Windsor, Joseph Whitehouse, Peter Wiser, and Captain Clarke's black servant York. The two interpreters were George Drewyer and

Toussaint Chaboneau. The wife of Chaboneau also accompanied us with her young child, and we hope may be useful as an interpreter among the Snake Indians. She was herself one of that tribe ; but, having been taken in war by the Minnetarees, was sold as a slave to Chaboneau, who brought her up, and afterward married her. One of the Mandans likewise embarked with us, in order to go to the Snake Indians and obtain a peace with them for his countrymen. All this party, with the baggage, was stowed in six small canoes and two large pirogues. We left the fort with fair, pleasant weather, though the northwest wind was high ; and, after making about four miles, encamped on the north side of the Missouri, nearly opposite the first Mandan village. At the same time that we took our departure, our barge, manned with seven soldiers, two Frenchmen, and M. Gravelines as pilot, sailed for the United States, loaded with our presents and despatches."

On the 9th they reached a hunting-camp of the Minnetarees, and a few miles beyond it they met with a hunting-party of the same nation, who had constructed an enclosure for the purpose of taking the antelope in their migrations from the Black Mountains to the north side of the Missouri. "The bluffs we passed to-day," continues the Journal, "are upward of one hundred feet high, composed of a mixture of yellow clay and sand, with many horizontal strata of carbonated wood, resembling pit-coal, from one to five feet in depth, and scattered through the bluff at different elevations, some as high as eighty feet above the water. The hills along the river are broken, and present every appearance of having been burned at some former period ; great quantities of pumice-stone and

lava, or, rather, earth which seems to have been boiled and then hardened by exposure, being seen in many parts of these hills, where they are broken and washed down into gulleys by the rain and melting snow."

\* \* \* "We saw, but could not procure, an animal that burrows in the ground, and similar in every respect to the burrowing squirrel, except that it is only one third of its size. This may be the animal whose works we have often seen in the plains and prairies. They resemble the labours of the salamander in the sand-hills of South Carolina and Georgia, and, like him, the animals rarely come above ground. These works consist of little hillocks of ten or twelve pounds of loose ground, which look as though they had been reversed from a pot, though no aperture is seen through which the earth could have been thrown. On removing gently the earth, you discover that the soil has been broken in a circle of about an inch-and-a-half diameter, where the ground is looser, though still no opening is perceptible. When we stopped for dinner the squaw went out, and, after penetrating with a sharp stick the holes of the mice near some driftwood, brought to us a quantity of wild artichokes, which the mice collect and hoard in large numbers. The root is white, of an ovate form, from one to three inches long, and generally of the size of a man's finger: and, two, four, and sometimes six roots are attached to a single stalk. Its flavour, and the stalk which issues from it, resemble those of the Jerusalem artichoke, except that the latter is much larger."

The following day they passed a bluff on the south side of the river, which was in several places on fire, and threw out quantities of smoke with a strong sul-

phurous smell: the character of the bluff, as to coal, &c., being similar to those they had seen the day before. They saw the track of a large white bear: a herd of antelopes, and geese and swan in considerable numbers, feeding on the young grass in the low prairies; and they shot a prairie-hen, also a bald eagle, many nests of which were in the tall cottonwood-trees. Their old companions, the Moschetoës, renewed their visits, to the no small annoyance of the party.

The weather the next day became very warm. The country was much the same as that passed the day before; but on the sides of the hills, and even on the banks of the rivers, as well as on the sand-bars, there was a white substance in considerable quantities on the surface of the earth, which tasted like a mixture of common salt with glauher salts. Many of the streams coming from the foot of the hills were so strongly impregnated with it, that the water had an unpleasant taste and a purgative effect. They killed two geese, and saw some cranes, the largest bird of that kind common to the Missouri and Mississippi, and which is perfectly white, except the large feathers on the two first joints of the wing, which are black.

"April 12. We set off early," says the narrative, "and passed a high range of hills on the south side, our pirogues being obliged to go over to the south, in order to avoid a sand-bank which was rapidly falling in. At six miles we came to at the lower side of the entrance of the Little Missouri, where we remained during the day, for the purpose of making celestial observations. This river empties itself on the south side of the Missouri, one thousand six hundred and

ninety-three miles from its confluence with the Mississippi. It rises to the west of the Black Mountains, across the northern extremity of which it finds a narrow, rapid passage along high perpendicular banks, and then seeks the Missouri in a northeastern direction." \* \* \* "In its course it passes near the northwest side of the Turtle Mountain, which is said to be only twelve or fifteen miles from its mouth, in a straight line a little to the south of west; so that both the Little Missouri and Knife Rivers have been laid down too far southwest. It enters the Missouri with a bold current, and is one hundred and thirty-four yards wide: but its greatest depth is two feet and a half, and this joined to its rapidity and its sand-bars, make the navigation difficult except for canoes, which may ascend it for a considerable distance." \* \* \*

"We found this day great quantities of small onions, which grow single, the bulb of an oval form, white, about the size of a bullet, and with a leaf resembling that of the chive. On the side of a hill there was a species of dwarf cedar. It spreads its limbs along the surface of the earth, which they almost conceal by their closeness and thickness, having always a number of roots on the under side, while on the upper are a quantity of shoots, which with their leaves seldom rise higher than six or eight inches. It is an evergreen, its leaf more delicate than that of the common cedar, though the taste and smell are the same."

On the 13th they passed a small stream, which they called Onion Creek, from that vegetable growing in great abundance on the plains near it. "The Missouri itself," proceeds the Journal, "widens very re-



markably just above its junction with the Little Missouri. Immediately at the entrance of the latter it is not more than two hundred yards wide, and so shallow that it may be passed in canoes with setting poles, while a few miles above it is upward of a mile in width. Ten miles beyond Onion Creek we came to another discharging itself on the north, in the center of a deep bend; on ascending which for about a mile and a half, we found it to be the discharge of a pond or small lake, which seemed to have been once the bed of the Missouri. Near this lake were the remains of forty-three temporary lodges, which seem to belong to the Assiniboins, who are now on the river of the same name. A great number of swan and geese were also in it, and from this circumstance we named the creek Goose Creek, and the lake by the same name: these geese, we observed, do not build their nests on the ground or in sand-bars, but in the tops of lofty cottonwood-trees. We saw some elk and buffalo to-day, but at too great a distance to obtain any of them, though a number of the carcasses of the latter animal were strewed along the shore, having fallen through the ice and been swept along when the river broke up. More bald eagles were seen on this part of the Missouri than we had previously met with; the small or common hawk, common in most parts of the United States, were also found here. Great quantities of geese were feeding in the prairies and one flock of white brant, or geese with black wings, and some gray brant with them, passed up the river, and from their flight they seemed to proceed much farther to the northwest." \* \* \*

"April 14. We set off early, with pleasant and

fair weather: a dog joined us, which we supposed had strayed from the Assiniboin camp on the lake. At two-and-a-half miles we passed low timbered grounds and a small creek. In these low grounds are several uninhabited lodges, built with the boughs of the elm, and the remains of two recent encampments, which, from the hoops of small kegs found in them, we judged could belong to Assiniboins only, as they are the only Missouri Indians who use spirituous liquors. Of these they are so passionately fond, that it forms their chief inducement to visit the British on the Assiniboin, to whom they barter for kegs of rum their dried and pounded meat, their grease, and the skins of large and small wolves, and small foxes: the dangerous exchange is transported to their camps, with their friends and relations, and soon exhausted in brutal intoxication. So far from considering drunkenness as disgraceful, the women and children are permitted and invited to share in these exceses with their husbands and fathers, who boast how often their skill and industry as hunters have supplied them with the means of intoxication; in this, as in their other habits and customs, they resemble the Sioux, from whom they are descended. The trade with the Assiniboins and Knistenaux is encouraged by the British, because it procures provision for their *engagés* on their return from Rainy Lake to the English River and the Athabasky country, where they winter; these men being obliged, during their voyage, to pass rapidly through a country but scantily supplied with game. We halted for dinner near a large village of burrowing squirrels, who, we observe, generally select a southeasterly ex-

posure, though they are sometimes found in the plains. At ten-and-a-quarter miles we came to the lower point of an island, which, from the day of our arrival there, we called Sunday Island. Here the river washes the bases of the hills on both sides, and above the island, which, with its sand-bar, extends a mile-and-a-half, two small creeks fall in from the south; the uppermost of these, which is the largest, we called Chaboneau's Creek, after our interpreter, who once encamped on it several weeks with a party of Indians. Beyond this no white man had ever been, except two Frenchmen, one of whom, Lapage, is with us; and who, having lost their way, straggled a few miles farther, though to what point we could not ascertain. About a mile-and-a-half beyond this island, we encamped on a point of woodland on the north, having made in all fourteen miles.

“The Assiniboina have so recently left the river that game is scarce and shy. One of the hunters shot at an otter last evening; a buffalo, too, was killed, and an elk, both so poor as to be almost unfit for use; two white bears were also seen, and a muskrat swimming across the river. The river continues wide, and of about the same rapidity as the ordinary current of the Ohio. The low grounds are wide, the moister parts containing timber, the upland extremely broken, without wood, and in some places seem as if they had slipped down in masses of several acres in surface. The mineral appearances of salts, coal, and sulphur, with the burned hill and pumice-stone, continue, and a bituminous water, about the colour of strong ley, with a taste of glauber salts and a slight tincture of alum. Many geese were feeding in the

prairies, and a number of magpies, who build their nests much like those of the blackbird, in trees, and composed of small sticks, leaves, and grass, open at top: the egg is of a bluish-brown colour, freckled with reddish-brown spots. We also killed a large hooting-owl, resembling that of the United States, except that it was more booted and clad with feathers. On the hills are many aromatic herbs, resembling in taste, smell, and appearance the sage, hyssop, wormwood, southernwood, juniper, and dwarf cedar; a plant, also, about two or three feet high, similar to the camphor in smell and taste; and another plant of the same size, with a long, narrow, smooth, soft leaf, of an agreeable smell and flavour, which is a favourite food of the antelope, whose necks are often perfumed by rubbing against it.

“April 15. We proceeded with a fine breeze from the south, and clear, pleasant weather. At seven miles we reached the lower point of an island in a bend to the south, which is two miles in length. Captain Clarke, who went about nine miles northward from the river, reached the high grounds, which, like those we have seen, are level plains without timber; here he observed a number of drains, which, descending from the hills, pursue a northeast course, and probably empty into the Mouse River, a branch of the Assiniboin, which, from Indian accounts, approaches very near to the Missouri at this place. Like all the rivulets of this neighbourhood, these drains are so strongly impregnated with mineral salts that they are not fit to drink. We saw, also the remains of several camps of Assiniboins: the low grounds of both sides of the river are extensive, rich, and level.

In a little pond on the north, we heard, for the first time this season, the croaking of frogs, which exactly resembled that of the small frogs in the United States. There were also in these plains great quantities of geese, and many of the grouse, or prairie-hen, as they are called by the Northwest Company's traders. The note of the male of the latter, as far as words can represent it, is cook, cook, cook, coo, coo, coo, the first part of which both male and female use when flying: the male, too, drums with his wings when he flies, in the same way, though not so loud, as the pheasant; they appeared to be mating. Some deer, elk, and goats were in the low grounds, and buffalo on the sand-beaches, but they were uncommonly shy; we also saw a black bear, and two white ones." \* \* \*

"April 16. The morning was clear, the wind light from the southeast. The country presents the same appearance of low plains and meadows on the river, bounded a few miles back by broken hills, which end in high, level, fertile lands; the quantity of timber is, however, increasing. The appearance of minerals continues as usual, and to-day we found several stones which seemed to have been wood, first carbonated, and then petrified by the water of the Missouri, which has the same effect on many vegetable substances. There is, indeed, reason to believe that the strata of coal in the hills cause the fire, and the appearance which they exhibit of being burned. Whenever these marks present themselves in the bluffs on the river, the coal is seldom seen; and when found in the neighbourhood of the strata of burned earth, the coal, with



the sand and sulphurous matter usually accompanying it, is precisely at the same height, and nearly of the same thickness with those strata." \* \* \*

"April 17. We traveled this day twenty-six miles through a country similar to that of yesterday, except that there were greater appearances of burned hills, furnishing large quantities of lava and pumice-stone, of the last of which we observed some pieces floating down the river, as we had previously done as low as the Little Missouri. In all the copses of wood are the remains of the Assiniboin encampments. Around us are great quantities of game, such as herds of buffalo, elk, antelope, some deer and wolves, and the tracks of bears: a curlew was also seen, and we obtained three beaver, the flesh of which is more relished by the men than any other food we have. Just before we encamped we saw some tracks of Indians, who had passed twenty-four hours before, and left four rafts, and whom we supposed to be a band of Assiniboins on their return from war against the Indians on the Rocky Mountains." \* \* \*

"April 18. We encamped about dark on a woody bank, having made thirteen miles. The country presented the usual variety of highlands interspersed with rich plains. In one of these we observed a species of pea, bearing a yellow flower, being now in blossom, the leaf and stalk resembling the common pea: it seldom rises higher than six inches, and the root is perennial. On the rose bushes we also saw a quantity of the hair of the buffalo, which had become perfectly white by exposure, and resembled the wool of sheep, except that it was much finer, and more soft and silky. A buffalo which we killed yesterday had shed

his long hair, and that which remained was about two inches long, thick and fine, and would have furnished five pounds of wool, of which we have no doubt an excellent cloth might be made. Our game to-day were a beaver, a deer, an elk, and some geese." \* \* \* "The beaver on this part of the Missouri are in greater quantities, larger and fatter, and their fur is more abundant, and of a darker colour than any we had hitherto seen: their favourite food seems to be the bark of the cottonwood and willow, as we have seen no other species of tree that has been touched by them, and these they gnaw to the ground through a diameter of twenty inches."

On the 19th the wind was so high from the northwest that they could not proceed; but, being less violent the following day, "We set off," says the Journal, "about seven o'clock, and had nearly lost one of the canoes as we left the shore by the falling in of a large part of the bank. The wind, too, became again so strong that we could scarcely make one mile an hour, and the sudden squalls so dangerous to the small boats that we stopped for the night among some willows on the north, not being able to advance more than six-and-a-half miles. In walking through the neighbouring plains we found a fertile soil covered with cottonwood, some box, alder, ash, red elm, and an undergrowth of willow, rose-bushes, honeysuckle, red willow, gooseberry, currant, and service-berries, and along the foot of the hills great quantities of hyssop. Our hunters procured elk and deer, which are now lean, and six beaver, which are fatter and more palatable. Along the plain there were also some Indian camps. Near one of these was a

scaffold about seven feet high, on which were two sleds with their harness, and under it the body of a female, carefully wrapped in several dressed buffalo skins: near it lay a bag made of buffalo skin, containing a pair of moccasins, some red and blue paint, beaver's nails, scrapers for dressing hides, some dried roots, several plaits of sweet grass, and a small quantity of Mandan tobacco. These things, as well as the body itself, had probably fallen down by accident, as the custom is to place them on the scaffold. At a little distance was the body of a dog not yet decayed, who had met this reward for having dragged thus far in the sled the corpse of his mistress, to whom, according to the Indian usage, he had been sacrificed.

"April 21. Last night there was a hard white frost, and this morning the weather was cold, but clear and pleasant. The country was of the same description as within the few last days. We saw immense quantities of buffalo, elk, deer, antelope, geese, and some swan and ducks, out of which we procured three deer, four buffalo calves, which last are equal in flavour to the most delicious veal, also two beaver, and an otter. We passed one large and two small creeks on the south side, and reached at sixteen miles the mouth of Whiteearth River, coming in from the north. This river, before it reaches the low grounds near the Missouri, is a fine, bold stream, sixty yards wide, and is deep and navigable; but it is so much choked up at the entrance by the mud of the Missouri that its mouth is not more than ten yards wide." \* \* \*

"April 22. The day clear and cold. We passed a high bluff on the north, and plains on the south, in

which were large herds of buffalo, till breakfast, when the wind became so strong ahead that we proceeded with difficulty even with the aid of the towline. Some of the party now walked across to the White-earth River, which here, at the distance of four miles from its mouth, approaches very near to the Missouri. It contains more water than is usual in streams of the same size at this season, with steep banks about ten or twelve feet high, and the water is much clearer than that of the Missouri. The salts, which have been mentioned as common on the banks of the Missouri, are here so abundant that in many places the ground appears perfectly white, and from this circumstance it may have derived its name. It waters an open country, and is navigable almost to its source, which is not far from the Saskashawan; and judging from its size and course, it is probable that it extends as far as the fiftieth degree of latitude. After much delay in consequence of the high wind, we succeeded in making eleven miles, and encamped in a low ground on the south, covered with cottonwood and rabbit-berries. The hills of the Missouri, near this place, exhibit large, irregular broken masses of rocks and stones, some of which, although two hundred feet above the water, seem at some remote period to have been subject to its influence, being apparently worn smooth by the agitation of the water. These rocks and stones consist of white and gray granite, a brittle black rock, flint, limestone, freestone, some small specimens of an excellent pebble, and occasionally broken strata of a black-coloured stone, like petrified wood, which make good whetstones. The usual appearances of coal, or carbonated wood, and pumice-stone, still con-



tinue: the coal being of a better quality, and, when burned, affording a hot and lasting fire, emitting very little smoke or flame. There are large herds of deer, elk, buffalo, and antelope in view of us. The buffalo are not so shy as the rest, for they suffer us to approach within one hundred yards before they run, and then stop and resume their pasture at a very short distance. The wolves to-day pursued a herd of them, and at length caught a calf that was unable to keep up with the rest; the mothers on these occasions defend their young as long as they can retreat as fast as the herd, but seldom return any distance to seek for them."

The two following days the wind was so violent that they made but little progress. The party were much afflicted with sore eyes, which they supposed to be occasioned by the quantities of sand which were driven from the sand-bars in such clouds as often to hide from them the view of the opposite bank. "The particles of this sand," says the Journal, "are so fine and light, that it floats for miles in the air like a column of thick smoke, and is so penetrating that nothing can be kept free from it; and we are compelled to eat, drink, and breathe it very copiously. To the same cause we attribute the disorder of one of our watches, although its cases are double and tight; since without any defect in its works that we can discover, it will not run for more than a few minutes without stopping.

"April 25. The wind moderated this morning, but was still high; we therefore set out early, the weather being so cold that the water froze on the oars as we rowed, and about ten o'clock the wind increased so



much that we were obliged to stop. This detention by the wind, and the reports from our hunters of the crookedness of the river, induced us to believe that we were at no great distance from the Yellowstone River. In order, therefore, to prevent delay as much as possible, Captain Lewis determined to go on by land in search of that river, and make the necessary observations, so as to be enabled to proceed immediately after the boats should join him. He accordingly landed about eleven o'clock, on the south side, accompanied by four men: the boats were prevented from going until five in the afternoon, when they went on a few miles farther, and encamped for the night at the distance of fourteen and a half miles.

"April 26. We continued our voyage in the morning, and by twelve o'clock encamped at eight miles' distance, at the junction of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, where we were soon joined by Captain Lewis." \* \* \*

"This latter river, known to the French as the *Roche Jaune*, or, as we have called it, the Yellowstone, rises, according to Indian information, in the Rocky Mountains. Its sources are near those of the Missouri and the Platte, and it may be navigated in canoes almost to its head. It runs first through a mountainous country, but which in many parts is fertile and well timbered: it then waters a rich, delightful land, broken into valleys and meadows, and well supplied with wood and water, till it reaches, near the Missouri, open meadows and low grounds, which are sufficiently timbered on its borders." \* \* \* "Just above the confluence we measured the two rivers, and found the bed of the Missouri five hundred and twenty yards wide, the water

occupying only three hundred and thirty, and the channel deep; while the Yellowstone, including its sand-bar, occupied eight hundred and fifty-eight yards, with two hundred and ninety-seven yards of water: the deepest part of the channel was twelve feet, but the river is now falling, and seems to be nearly at its summer height.

“April 27. We left the mouth of the Yellowstone. From the point of junction a wood occupies the space between the two rivers, which, at the distance of a mile, come within two hundred and fifty yards of each other. There a beautiful low plain commences, and, widening as the rivers recede, extends along each of them for several miles, rising about half a mile from the Missouri into a level twelve feet higher than the river. The low plain is a few inches above high-water mark, and where it joins the higher plain there is a channel of sixty or seventy yards in width, through which a part of the Missouri, when at its greatest height, passes into the Yellowstone. At two and a half miles above the junction, and between the high and low plain, is a small lake two hundred yards wide, extending for a mile parallel with the Missouri, along the edge of the upper plain. At the lower extremity of this lake, about four hundred yards from the Missouri, and twice that distance from the Yellowstone, is a situation highly eligible for a trading establishment: it is in the high plain, which extends back three miles in width, and seven or eight miles in length, along the Yellowstone, where it is bordered by an extensive body of woodland, and along the Missouri with less breadth, till three miles above it is circumscribed by the hills within a space four yards in width. A suffi-

cient quantity of limestone for building may easily be procured near the junction of the rivers: it does not lie in regular strata, but is in large irregular masses, of a light colour, and apparently of an excellent quality. Game, too, is very abundant, and as yet quite gentle: above all, its elevation recommends it as preferable to the land at the confluence of the rivers, which their variable channels may render very insecure. The northwest wind rose so high at eleven o'clock that we were obliged to stop till about four in the afternoon, when we proceeded till dusk. On the south a beautiful plain separates the two rivers, till at about six miles there is a piece of low timbered ground, and a little above it bluffs, where the country rises gradually from the river; the situations on the north are more high and open. We encamped on that side, the wind, the sand which raised, and the rapidity of the current having prevented our advancing more than eight miles; during the latter part of the day, the river became wider, and crowded with sand-bars. The game was in such plenty that we killed only what was necessary for our subsistence. For several days past we have seen great numbers of buffalo lying dead along the shore, some of them partly devoured by the wolves. They have either sunk through the ice during the winter, or been drowned in attempting to cross; or else, after crossing to some high bluff, have found themselves too much exhausted either to ascend or swim back again, and perished for want of food: in this situation we found several small parties of them. There are geese, too, in abundance, and more bald eagles than we have hitherto observed; the nests of these last being always accompanied by those of two or three magpies, who are their inseparable attendants.

## CHAPTER VIII.

Usual Appearance of Salt.—The formidable Character of the White Bear.—Porcupine River described.—Beautiful Appearance of the surrounding Country.—Immense Quantities of Game.—Milk River described.—Big Dry River.—An Instance of uncommon Tenacity of Life in a White Bear.—Narrow Escape of one of the Party from that Animal.—A still more remarkable Instance.—Muscleshell River.

AS they advanced the country on both sides was much broken, the elevations approaching nearer the river, and forming bluffs, some of a white, others of a red colour, exhibiting the usual appearances of minerals, and there were some burned hills, though without any pumice-stone: the salts were in greater quantities than usual, and the banks and sand-bars were covered with a white incrustation like frost. The beaver had committed great devastation among the trees, one of which, nearly three feet in diameter, had been gnawed through by them.

“April 29. We proceeded early,” continues the Journal, “with a moderate wind. Captain Lewis, who was on shore with one hunter, met about eight o’clock two white bears. Of the strength and ferocity of this animal the Indians had given us dreadful accounts; they never attack him but in parties of six or eight persons, and even then are often defeated, with the loss of one or more of the party. Having no weapons but bows and arrows, and the bad guns with which the traders supply them, they are obliged to approach very

near to the bear; and as no wound except through the head or heart is mortal, they frequently fall a sacrifice if they miss their aim. He rather attacks than avoids man; and such is the terror he has inspired, that the Indians who go in quest of him paint themselves, and perform all the superstitious rites customary when they make war on a neighbouring nation. Hitherto, those we had seen did not appear desirous of encountering us; but, although to a skilful rifleman the danger is very much diminished, the white bear is still a terrible animal. On approaching these two, both Captain Lewis and the hunter fired, and each wounded a bear. One of them made his escape; the other turned upon Captain Lewis, and pursued him for seventy or eighty yards; but, being badly wounded, he could not run so fast as to prevent him from reloading his piece, which he again aimed at him, and a third shot from the hunter brought him to the ground. It was a male, not quite full grown, and weighed about three hundred pounds: the legs were somewhat longer than those of the black bear, and the claws and tusks much larger and longer. Its colour was a yellowish brown, the eyes small, black, and piercing. The front of the fore legs of the animal, near the feet, is usually black, and the fur is finer, thicker, and deeper than that of the black bear; added to which, it is a more furious animal, and very remarkable for the wounds which it will bear without dying.

“We are surrounded with deer, elk, buffalo, antelope, and their companions the wolves, who have become more numerous, and make great ravages among them: the hills are here much more rough and high, and almost overhang the banks of the river. There



are greater appearances of coal than we have hitherto seen, the strata of it being in some places six feet thick, and there are also strata of burned earth, which are always on the same level with those of the coal."

The next day they passed a fertile country, with but little timber, and saw some Indian lodges, which did not appear to have been recently inhabited. "The game," says the journalist, "continues abundant. We killed the largest male elk we have yet seen: on placing it in its natural erect position, we found that it measured five feet three inches from the point of the hoof to the top of the shoulder. The antelopes are yet lean, and the females are with young. These fleet and quick-sighted animals are generally the victims of their curiosity. When they first see the hunters, they run with great velocity: if he lies down on the ground, and lifts up his arm, his hat, or his foot, they return with a light trot to look at the object, and sometimes go and return two or three times, until they approach within reach of the rifle. So, too, they sometimes leave their flock to go and look at the wolves, which crouch down, and, if the antelope is frightened at first, repeat the same manœuvre, and sometimes relieve each other, till they decoy it from the party, when they seize it. But, generally, the wolves take them as they are crossing the rivers; for, although swift on foot, they are not good swimmers."

May opened with cold weather and high winds, which greatly retarded their progress. On the 2d snow fell so as to cover the ground to the depth of an inch, contrasting strangely with the advanced vegetation. "Our game to-day," proceeds the Journal, "were deer, elk, and buffalo: we also procured three

beaver. They were here quite gentle, as they have not been hunted; but when the hunters are in pursuit, they never leave their huts during the day. This animal we esteem a great delicacy, particularly the tail, which, when boiled, resembles in flavour the fresh tongues and sounds of the codfish, and is generally so large as to afford a plentiful meal for two men. One of the hunters, in passing near an old Indian camp, found several yards of scarlet cloth suspended on the bough of a tree, as a sacrifice to the Deity, by the Assiniboins; the custom of making these offerings being common among that people, as, indeed, among all the Indians on the Missouri. The air was sharp this evening; the water froze on the oars as we rowed.

“May 3. The weather was quite cold, the ice a quarter of an inch thick in the kettle, and the snow still remained on the hills, though it had melted from the plains. The wind, too, continued high from the west, but not so violently as to prevent our going on. At two miles from our encampment we passed a curious collection of bushes, about thirty feet high, and ten or twelve in diameter, tied in the form of a fascine, and standing on end in the middle of the low ground; this, too, we supposed to have been left by the Indians as a religious sacrifice. The low grounds on the river are much wider than common, sometimes extending from five to nine miles to the highlands, which are much lower than heretofore, not being more than fifty or sixty feet above the lower plain. Through all this valley traces of the ancient bed of the river are everywhere visible; and, since the hills have become lower, the strata of coal, burned earth, and pumice-stone have in a great measure

ceased, there being in fact, none to-day. At the distance of fourteen miles we reached the mouth of a river on the north, which, from the unusual number of porcupines near it, we called Porcupine River. This is a bold and beautiful stream, one hundred and twelve yards wide, though the water is only forty yards at its entrance." \* \* \* "The water of this river is transparent, and is the only one that is so of all those that fall into the Missouri. From the quantity of water which it contains, its direction, and the nature of the country through which it passes, it is not improbable that its sources may be near the main body of Saskatchewan; and, as in high water it can be no doubt navigated to a considerable distance, it may be rendered the means of intercourse with the Athabasky country, from which the Northwest Company derive so many of their valuable furs."

\* \* \* "We saw vast quantities of buffalo, elk deer, principally of the long-tailed kind, antelope, beaver, geese, ducks, brant, and some swan. The porcupines, too, are numerous, and so careless and clumsy that we can approach very near without disturbing them as they are feeding on the young willows. Towards evening we also found, for the first time, the nest of a goose among some driftwood, all that we have hitherto seen being on the tops of broken trees, on the forks, and invariably from fifteen to twenty feet or more in height."

\* \* \* "May 4. There are, as usual, vast quantities of game, and extremely gentle; the male buffaloes, particularly, will scarcely give way to us, and, as we approach, will merely look at us for a moment as something new, and then quietly resume their feeding. In

the course of the day we passed some old Indian hunting-camps, one of which consisted of two large lodges fortified with a circular fence twenty or thirty feet in diameter, and made of timber laid horizontally, the beams overlaying each other to the height of five feet, and covered with the trunks and limbs of trees that have drifted down the river. The lodges themselves are formed by three or more strong sticks, about the size of a man's leg or arm, and twelve feet long, which are attached at the top by a withe of small willows, and spread out so as to form at the base a circle of from ten to fourteen feet in diameter: against these are placed pieces of driftwood and fallen timber, usually in three ranges, one on the other, and the interstices are covered with leaves, bark, and straw, so as to form a conical figure about ten feet high, with a small aperture in one side for the door. It is, however, at best, a very imperfect shelter against the inclemencies of the seasons.

"May 5. We had a fine morning, and, the wind being from the east, we used our sails. At the distance of five miles we came to a small island, and twelve miles farther encamped on the north, at the distance of seventeen miles. The country, like that of yesterday, is beautiful in the extreme. Among the vast quantities of game around us, we distinguish a small species of goose, differing considerably from the common Canadian goose; its neck, head, and beak being much thicker, larger, and stronger in proportion to its size, which is nearly a third smaller; its noise, too, resembling more that of the brant, or of a young goose that has not yet fully acquired its note. In other respects—its colour, habits, and the number of

feathers in the tail, the two species correspond: this species also associates in flocks with the large geese, but we have not seen it pair off with them. The white brant is about the size of the common brown brant, or two thirds that of the common goose, moreover it is also six inches shorter from the extremity of the wings, though the beak, head, and neck are larger and stronger. The body and wings are of a beautiful pure white, except the black feathers of the first and second joints of the wings; the beak and legs are of a reddish or flesh-coloured white; the eye of a moderate size, the pupil of a deep sea-green, encircled with a ring of yellowish brown; the tail consists of sixteen feathers equally long; the flesh is dark, and, as well as its note, differs but little from that of the common brant, which in form and habits it resembles, and with which it sometimes unites in a common flock. The white brant also associate by themselves in large flocks; but, as they do not seem to be mated or paired off, it is doubtful whether they reside here during the summer for the purpose of rearing their young.

“The wolves are also very abundant, and are of two species. First, the small wolf, or burrowing dog of the prairies, which are found in almost all the open plains: it is of an intermediate size between the fox and dog, very delicately formed, fleet, and active; the ears are large, erect, and pointed; the head long and pointed, like that of the fox; the tail long and bushy; the hair and fur of a pale reddish-brown colour, though much coarser than that of the fox; the eye of a deep sea green colour, small and piercing: the claws rather longer than those of the wolf of the Atlantic States, which animal, as far as



we can perceive, is not to be found on this side of the river Platte. These wolves usually associate in bands of ten or twelve, and are rarely, if ever, seen alone, not being powerful enough singly to attack a deer or antelope. They live and rear their young in burrows, which they fix near some pass or spot much frequented by game, and sally out in a body against any animal which they can overpower, but on the slightest alarm retire to their burrows, making a noise exactly like that of a small dog.

“The second species is lower, shorter in the legs, and thicker than the Atlantic wolf. Their colour, which is not affected by the seasons, is of every variety of shade, from a gray or blackish brown to a cream-coloured white. They do not burrow, nor do they bark, but howl; they frequent the woods and plains, and skulk along the skirts of the buffalo herds, in order to attack the weary or wounded.

“Captain Clarke and one of the hunters met this evening the largest brown bear we have seen. As they fired he did not attempt to attack, but fled with a most tremendous roar; and such was his extraordinary tenacity of life, that, although he had five balls passed through his lungs, and five other wounds, he swam more than half across the river to a sand-bar, and survived twenty minutes. He weighed between five and six hundred pounds at least, and measured eight feet seven and a half inches from the nose to the extremity of the hind feet, five feet ten inches and a half around the breast, three feet eleven inches round the neck, one foot eleven inches round the middle of the fore leg, and his claws, five on each foot, were four inches and three-eighths in length. This animal

differs from the common black bear in having his claws much longer and more blunt; his tail shorter; his hair of a reddish or bay brown, longer, finer, and more abundant; his liver, lungs, and heart much larger even in proportion to his size, the heart particularly, being equal to that of a large ox; and his maw ten times larger. Besides fish and flesh, he feeds on roots and every kind of wild fruit."

\* \* \* "May 6. The morning being fair, and the wind favourable, we set sail, and proceeded very well the greater part of the day. The country continues level, rich, and beautiful; the low grounds wide, and, comparatively with the other parts of the Missouri, well supplied with wood. The appearances of coal, pumice-stone, and burned earth have ceased, though the salts of tartar or vegetable salts continue on the banks and sand-bars, and sometimes in the little ravines at the base of the hills."

They this day passed three streams, or, more properly, beds of streams (for, though they contained some water in standing pools, they discharged none), the first being twenty-five yards wide, the second fifty, and the last no less than two hundred, and to which they gave the names of Little Dry and Big Dry Creeks, and Big Dry River.

The party proceeded up the river at the rate of about twenty miles a day, through beautiful and fertile plains, which rose gradually from the low grounds bordering its banks to the height of fifty feet, and extended a perfect level, at that elevation, as far in places as the eye could reach. On the 8th they passed a considerable stream, which, from the whitish colour of its water, they called Milk River; and on the fol-

lowing day the bed of a river, which, though as wide as that of the Missouri, like those passed a few days before, contained no running water.

“The game,” says the Journal, “is now in great quantities, particularly the elk and buffalo, which last are so gentle that the men are obliged to drive them out of the way with sticks and stones. The ravages of the beaver are very apparent. In one place the timber was entirely prostrated for a space of three acres in front of the river, and one in depth, and a great part of it removed, though the trees were numerous, and some of them as thick as the body of a man.” \* \* \* “For several days past the river has been as wide as it generally is near its mouth; but, as it is much shallower, crowded with sand-bars, and the colour of the water has become much clearer, we do not yet despair of reaching the Rocky Mountains, for which we are very anxious.”

The party were much troubled with boils and imposthumes, and also with sore eyes; for the former they made use of emolient poultices, and an application of two grains of white vitriol, and one of sugar of lead, dissolved in an ounce of water, for the eyes.

“May 11. The wind,” continues the Journal, “blew very hard in the night; but, having abated this morning, we went on on very well, till in the afternoon it became more violent, and retarded our progress; the current, too, was strong, the river very crooked, and the banks, as usual, constantly precipitating themselves in large masses into the water. The highlands are broken, and approach nearer the river than they do below. The soil, however, of both hills and low grounds appears as fertile as that farther down

the river: it consists of a black-looking loam, with a small portion of sand, which covers the hills and bluffs to the depth of twenty or thirty feet, and, when thrown into the water, dissolves as readily as loaf-sugar, and effervesces like marl. There are also numerous appearances of quartz and mineral salts: the first is most commonly seen in the faces of the bluffs; the second is found on the hills as well as the low grounds, and in the gulleys which come down from the hills; it lies in a crust of two or three inches in depth, and may be swept up with a feather in large quantities. There is no longer any appearance of coal, burned earth, or pumice-stone. We saw and visited some high hills on the north side, about three miles from the river, whose tops were covered with the pitch-pine. This is the first pine we have seen on the Missouri, and it is like that of Virginia, except that the leaves are somewhat longer. Among this pine is also a dwarf cedar, sometimes between three or four feet high, but generally spreading itself like a vine along the surface of the earth, which it covers very closely, putting out roots from the under side. The fruit and smell resemble those of the common red cedar, but the leaf is finer and more delicate. The tops of the hills where these plants grow have a soil quite different from that just described; the basis of it is usually yellow or white clay, and the general appearance light-coloured, sandy, and barren, some scattering tufts of sedge being almost its only herbage. About five in the afternoon, one of our men, who had been afflicted with boils, being suffered to walk on shore, came running to the boats with loud cries, and every symptom of terror and distress.

For some time after we had taken him on board, he was so much out of breath as to be unable to describe the cause of his anxiety; but he at length told us that about a mile and a half below he had shot a brown bear, which immediately turned, and was in close pursuit of him; though, being badly wounded, he could not overtake him. Captain Lewis, with seven men, immediately went in search of him; and, having found his track, followed him by the blood for a mile, found him concealed in some thick brushwood, and shot him with two balls through the skull. Though somewhat smaller than that killed a few days ago, he was a monstrous animal, and a most terrible enemy. Our man had shot him through the center of the lungs; yet he had pursued him furiously for half a mile, then returned more than twice that distance, and with his paws had prepared himself a bed in the earth two feet deep and five feet long, and was perfectly alive when they found him, which was at least two hours after he received the wound. The wonderful power of life which these animals possess renders them dreadful; their very track in the mud or sand, which we have sometimes found eleven inches long, and seven and a quarter wide, exclusive of the claws, is alarming; and we had rather encounter two Indians than meet a single brown bear. There is no chance of killing them by a single shot unless the ball goes through the brain, and this is very difficult on account of two large muscles which cover the side of the forehead, and the sharp projection of the centre of the frontal bone, which is also thick. The fleece and skin of this bear were a heavy burden for two men, and the oil amounted to eight gallons.



“May 12. The weather being clear and calm, we set out early. On both sides of the river the country is rough and broken, the low grounds becoming narrower. The soil of the hills has now altered its texture considerably; their base, like that of the river plains, is, as usual, a rich black loam, while from the middle to the summits they are composed of a light brown-coloured earth, poor and sterile, and intermixed with a coarse white sand.”

The character of the country continued much the same the two following days, but the current of the river became stronger, and its waters clearer, as they advanced. Game was, as usual, in great abundance. “Towards evening (on the 14th) the men in the hindmost canoes discovered a large brown bear lying in the open grounds, about three hundred paces from the river. Six of them, all good hunters, immediately went to attack him, and, concealing themselves by a small eminence, came unperceived within forty paces of him. Four of the hunters now fired, and each lodged a ball in his body, two of them through the lungs. The furious animal sprang up and ran open-mouthed upon them. As he came near, the two hunters who had reserved their fire gave him two wounds, one of which, breaking his shoulder, retarded his motion for a moment; but before they could reload he was so near that they were obliged to run to the river, and before they had reached it he had almost overtaken them. Two jumped into the canoe; the other four separated, and, concealing themselves in the willows, fired as fast as they could reload. They struck him several times, but, instead of weakening the monster, each shot seemed only to direct him towards the hunters, till

at last he pursued two of them so closely that they threw aside their guns and pouches, and jumped down a perpendicular bank of twenty feet into the river; the bear sprang after them, and was within a few feet of the hindmost, when one of the hunters on shore shot him in the head, and finally killed him. They dragged him to the shore, and found that eight balls had passed through him in different directions. The bear was old, and the meat tough, so that they took the skin only, and rejoined us at camp, where we had been as much terrified by an accident of a different kind.

“This was the narrow escape of one of our canoes, containing all our papers, instruments, medicine, and almost every article indispensable for the success of our enterprise. The canoe being under sail, a sudden squall of wind struck her obliquely and turned her considerably. The man at the helm, who was unluckily the worst steersman of the party, became alarmed, and, instead of putting her before the wind, luffed her up into it. The wind was so high that it forced the brace of the squaresail out of the hand of the man who was attending it, and instantly upset the canoe, which would have been turned bottom upward but for the resistance made by the awning. Such was the confusion on board, and the waves ran so high, that it was a half a minute before she righted, and then nearly full of water, but by bailing her out she was kept from sinking until they rowed ashore. Besides the loss of the lives of three men, who, not being able to swim, would probably have perished, we should have been deprived of nearly everything necessary for our purposes, at a distance of between two and

three thousand miles from any place where we could supply the deficiency."

Fortunately, the only loss sustained by this accident, which threatened to be so serious, was that of some of the medicines, which were spoiled by being wet. Nothing special occurred the two following days.

"May 17. We set out early," continues the Journal, "and proceeded on very well. The banks being firm, and the shore bold, we were enabled to use the towline, which, whenever the banks will permit it, is the safest and most expeditious mode of ascending the river, except under a sail with a steady breeze."

\* \* \* "The country in general is rugged, the hills high, with their summits and sides partially covered with pine and cedar, and their bases on both sides washed by the river. Like those already mentioned, the lower part of these hills is a dark rich loam, while the upper region, for one hundred and fifty feet, consists of a whitish brown sand, so hard as in many places to resemble stone, though in fact very little stone or rock of any kind is to be seen on the hills. The bed of the Missouri is much narrower than usual, being not more than between two and three hundred yards in width, with an uncommonly large proportion of gravel; but the sand-bars, and low points covered with willows, have almost entirely disappeared; the timber on the river consists of scarcely anything more than a few scattered cottonwood-trees. The saline incrustations along the banks and the foot of the hills are more abundant than usual. The game is in great quantities, but the buffalo are not so numerous as they were some days ago. Two rattlesnakes were seen to-day, and one of them we killed:

it resembles those of the middle Atlantic states, being about two feet six inches long, of a yellowish brown on the back and sides, variegated with a row of oval dark spots, lying transversely on the back from the neck to the tail, and having two other rows of circular spots of the same colour on the sides along the edge of the scuta: there are one hundred and seventy-six scuta on the belly, and seventeen on the tail."

\* \* \* "Late at night we were roused by the sergeant of the guard, in consequence of fire having communicated to a tree overhanging our camp. The wind was so high, that we had not removed the camp more than a few minutes when a large part of the tree fell, precisely on the spot it had occupied, and would have crushed us if we had not been alarmed in time."

The character of the country was fast changing: the willow had for the most part disappeared, and the cottonwood, almost the only timber remaining, was becoming scarce.

"May 19. The last night," continues the narrative, "was disagreeably cold; and in the morning there was a very heavy fog, which obscured the river so much as to prevent our seeing the way. This is the first fog of any degree of density which we have experienced. There was also, last evening, a fall of dew, the second which we have observed since entering this extensive open country. About eight o'clock the fog dispersed, and we proceeded with the aid of the towline. The country resembles that of yesterday, high hills closely bordering the river. In the afternoon the river became crooked, and contained more sawyers or floating timber than we have seen in the

same space since leaving the Platte. Our game consisted of deer, beaver, and elk: we also killed a brown bear, which, although shot through the heart, ran at their usual pace nearly a quarter of a mile before he fell."

On the 20th they reached the mouth of a large river on the south, and encamped for the day at the upper point of its junction with the Missouri. "This stream," says the Journal, "which we suppose to be that called by the Minnetarees the Muscleshell River, empties into the Missouri two thousand two hundred and seventy miles above the mouth of the latter river, and in latitude  $47^{\circ} 24''$  north. It is one hundred and ten yards wide, and contains more water than streams of that size usually do in this country." Among the game killed this day were two large owls, with long feathers on the sides of the head resembling ears, and which they took to be the hooting owls, though they were much larger, and their colours brighter than those common in the United States.

"May 21. The morning being very fine, we were able to employ the rope, and made twenty miles. In its course the Missouri makes a sudden and extensive bend towards the south, to receive the waters of the Muscleshell. The neck of land thus formed, though itself high, is lower than the surrounding country; and makes a waving valley, extending for a great distance to the northward, with a fertile soil, which, though without wood, produces a fine turf of low grass, some herbs, and vast quantities of prickly pear. The country on the south is high, broken, and crowned with some pine and dwarf cedar; the leaf of this pine is longer than that of the common pitch or red pine of



Virginia, the cone is longer and narrower, the imbrications wider and thicker, and the whole frequently covered with rosin."

\* \* \* "May 22. The river continues about two hundred and fifty yards wide, with fewer sand-bars, and the current more gentle and regular. Game is no longer in such abundance since leaving the Muscleshell. We have caught very few fish on this side of the Mandans, and these were the white catfish of from two to five pounds. We killed a deer and a bear: we have not seen in this quarter the black bear, common in the United States and on the lower parts of the Missouri, nor have we discerned any of their tracks, which may easily be distinguished by the shortness of its claws from the brown, grizzly or white bear, all of which seem to be of the same family, assuming those colours at different seasons of the year."



## CHAPTER IX.

The Party continue their Route.—Judith River.—Indian Mode of taking the Buffalo.—Slaughter River.—Phenomena of Nature.—Walls on the Banks of the Missouri.—The Party encamp, to ascertain which of the Streams constitute the Missouri.—Captain Lewis leaves the Party to explore the Northern Fork, and Captain Clarke explores the Southern.—Narrow Escape of one of Captain Lewis's Party.

“**M**AY 23. Last night the frost was severe, and this morning the ice appeared along the edges of the river, and the water froze on our oars. At the distance of a mile we passed the entrance of a creek on the north, which we named Teapot Creek: it is fifteen yards wide, and, although it has running water at a small distance from its mouth, yet it discharges none into the Missouri, resembling, we believe, most of the creeks of this hilly country, the waters of which are absorbed by the thirsty soil near the river. They indeed afford but little water in any part; and even that is so strongly tainted with salts that it is unfit for use, though all the wild animals are very fond of it. On experiment it was found to be moderately purgative.” \* \* \* “The river has become more rapid, the country the same as yesterday, except that there is rather more rocks on the face of the hills, and some small spruce pine appear among the pitch.” \* \* \*

“May 24. The water in the kettles froze one-eighth of an inch during the night; ice appears along the mar-

gin of the river, and the cottonwood-trees, which have lost nearly all their leaves by the frost, are putting forth other buds." \* \* \* "At twenty-four-and-a-half miles we reached a point of woodland on the south, where we observed that the trees had no leaves, and encamped for the night. The high country through which we have passed for some days, and where we now are, we suppose to be a continuation of what the French traders called the Côte Noire, or Black Hills. The country thus denominated consists of high, broken, irregular hills, and short chains of mountains, sometimes one hundred and twenty miles in width, sometimes narrower, but always much higher than the country on either side. They commence about the head of the Kansas, where they diverge; the first ridge going westward, along the northern shore of the Arkansas; the second approaching the Rocky Mountains obliquely, in a course a little to the W. of N.W.; and, after passing the Platte above its forks, and intersecting the Yellowstone near the Big Bend, they cross the Missouri at this place, and probably swell the country as far as the Saskashawan, though, as they are represented much smaller here than to the south, they may not reach that river."

The next day they proceeded onward, availing themselves of the towline wherever the banks permitted its use. They were much incommoded by barriers of stone which had been forced into the river by the spring torrents. In the course of the day they saw several herds of the big-horned animal, and killed some of them.

"May 26. We proceeded on at an early hour by means of the towline, using our oars merely in pass-

ing the river, to take advantage of the best banks. There are now scarcely any low grounds on the river, the hills being high, and in many places pressing on both sides to the verge of the water."

At the distance of thirteen miles from their starting-place in the morning, Captain Lewis ascended some hills on the north side of the river, from the summits of which he had the first view of the Rocky Mountains, "the object," the journalist remarks, "of all our hopes, and the reward of all our ambition. On both sides of the river, and at no great distance from it, the mountains followed its course: above these, at the distance of fifty miles from us, an irregular range of mountains spread themselves from west to northwest from his position. To the north of these, a few elevated points, the most remarkable of which bore north  $65^{\circ}$  west, appeared above the horizon; and, as the sun shone on the snows of their summits, he obtained a clear and satisfactory view of those mountains where are the sources of the Missouri and the Columbia." \* \* \* "At the distance of five miles, between high bluffs, we passed a very difficult rapid, reaching quite across the river, where the water is deep, the channel narrow, and gravel obstructing it on each side. We had great difficulty in ascending it, although we used both the rope and the pole, and doubled the crews. This is the most considerable rapid on the Missouri, and in fact, the only place where there is a sudden descent. As we were labouring up it, a female elk, with its fawn, swam down through the waves, which ran very high, and obtained for the place the name of the Elk Rapids." \* \* \*

"The country has now become desert and barren:

the appearances of coal, burned earth, pumice-stone, salts, and quartz continue as yesterday: but there is no timber, except the thinly-scattered pine and spruce on the summits of the hills or along the sides. The only animals we have observed are the elk, the bighorn, and the hare common to this country." \* \* \*

"May 27. The wind was so high that we did not start till ten o'clock, and even then were obliged to use the line during the greater part of the day. The river has become exceedingly rapid, with a very perceptible descent. Its general width is about two hundred yards: the shoals, too, are more frequent, and the rocky points at the mouth of the gulleys more troublesome to pass." \* \* \* "The water is bordered by high rugged bluffs, composed of irregular but horizontal strata of yellow and brown, or black clay, brown and yellowish white sand, soft yellowish white sandstone, hard dark brown freestone, and also large, round, kidney-formed, irregular separate masses of a hard black ironstone, imbedded in the clay and sand: some coal, or carbonated wood, also makes its appearance in the cliffs, as do also its usual attendants, the pumice-stone and burned earth." \* \* \*

"May 28. The weather was dark and cloudy, the air smoky, and there fell a few drops of rain. At ten o'clock we had again a light sprinkling of rain attended with distant thunder, which is the first that has occurred since our leaving the Mandans. We employed the line generally, with the addition of the pole at the ripples and rocky points, which we find more numerous and troublesome than those we passed yesterday. The water is very rapid round these points, and we are sometimes obliged to steer the canoes be-



tween the points of sharp rocks rising a few inches above the surface of the water, and so near to each other that, if our ropes give way, the force of the current drives the sides of the canoes against them, and must inevitably upset them, or dash them to pieces. These cords are very slender, being almost all made of elk-skin, and much worn and rotted by exposure to the weather. Several times they have given way, but, fortunately, always in places where there was room for the canoe to turn without striking the rock; yet, with all our precautions, it was with infinite risk and labour that we passed these points. An Indian pole for building floated down the river, and was worn at one end as if dragged along the ground in travelling: several other articles were also brought down by the current, which indicate that the Indians are probably at no great distance from us; and, judging from a foot-ball, which resembles those used by the Minnetarees near the Mandans, we conjecture that they must be a band of the Minnetarees of Fort de Prairie. The appearance of the river and surrounding country continued as usual, till, towards evening, at about fifteen miles, we reached a large creek on the north, thirty-five yards wide, discharging some water, and which we named after one of our men, Thompson's Creek. Here the country assumed a totally different aspect: the hills retired on both sides from the river, which spreads to more than three times its former size, and is filled with a number of small handsome islands covered with cottonwood. The low grounds on its banks are again wide, fertile, and enriched with trees: those on the north are particularly wide, the hills being comparatively low, and opening into three

large valleys, which extend themselves for a considerable distance towards the north. These appearances of vegetation are delightful after the dreary hills among which we have passed; and we have now to congratulate ourselves at having escaped from the last ridges of the Black Mountains. On leaving Thompson's Creek we passed two small islands, and at twenty-three miles' distance encamped among some timber on the north, opposite to a small creek, which we named Bull Creek. The bighorn are in great quantities, and must bring forth their young at a very early season, as they are now half grown. One of the party saw a large bear also; but, being at a distance from the river, and having no timber to conceal him, he would not venture to fire.

"May 29. Last night we were alarmed by a new sort of enemy. A buffalo swam over from the opposite side, and to the spot where lay one of our canoes, over which he clambered to the shore; then, taking fright, he ran full speed up the bank towards our fires, and passed within eighteen inches of the heads of some of the men before the sentinel could make him change his course. Still more alarmed, he ran down between four fires, and within a few inches of the heads of a second row of the men, and would have broken into our lodge if the barking of the dog had not stopped him. He suddenly turned to the right and was out of sight in a moment, leaving us all in confusion, every one seizing his rifle and inquiring the cause of the alarm. On learning what had happened, we had to rejoice at suffering no more injury than some damage to the guns that were in the canoe which the buffalo crossed."

\* \* \* “ We passed an island and two sand-bars, and at the distance of two-and-a-half miles came to a handsome river, which discharges itself on the south, and which we ascended to the distance of a mile-and-a-half: we called it Judith’s River. It rises in the Rocky Mountains, in about the same place with the Muscleshell, and near the Yellowstone River. Its entrance is one hundred yards wide from one bank to the other, the water occupying about seventy-five yards, and being in greater quantity than that of the Muscleshell River.” \* \* \* “ There were great numbers of the argalea, or bighorned animals, in the high country through which it passes, and of beaver in its waters. Just above the entrance of it we saw the ashes of the fires of one hundred and twenty-six lodges, which appeared to have been deserted about twelve or fifteen days, and on the other side of the Missouri a large encampment, apparently formed by the same nation. On examining some moccasins which we found there, our Indian woman said that they did not belong to her own nation, the Snake Indians, but she thought they indicated a tribe on this side of the Rocky Mountains, and to the north of the Missouri; indeed, it is probable that they were the Minnetarees of Fort de Prairie. At the distance of six-and-a-half miles the hills again approach the brink of the river, and the stones washed down from them form a very bad rapid, with rocks and ripples more numerous and difficult than those we passed on the 27th and 28th.” \* \* \* “ On the north we passed a precipice about one hundred and twenty feet high, under which lay scattered the remains of at least one hundred carcasses of buffalo, although the water, which had washed away the lower

part of the hill, must have carried off many of the dead.

“These buffalo had been chased down the precipice in a way very common on the Missouri, and by which vast herds are destroyed in a moment. The mode of hunting is to select one of the most active and fleet young men, who is disguised by a buffalo skin round his body; the skin of the head, with the ears and horns, being fastened on his own in such a way as to deceive the animal. Thus dressed, he fixes himself at a convenient distance between a herd of buffalo and any of the river precipices, which sometimes extend for miles. His companions in the meantime get in the rear and on the sides of the herd, and at a given signal show themselves, and advance towards them. The buffalo instantly take the alarm, and finding the hunters beside them, they run toward the disguised Indian or decoy, who leads them on at full speed towards the river, when, suddenly securing himself in some crevice of the cliff which he had previously fixed on, the herd is left on the brink of the precipice. It is then impossible for the foremost to retreat, or even to stop; they are pressed on by the hindmost rank, which, seeing no danger but from the hunters, goad on those before them, till the whole are precipitated over the cliff, and the shore is strewn with their dead bodies. Sometimes, in this perilous seduction, the Indian himself is either trodden under foot by the rapid movements of the buffalo, or, missing his footing in the cliff, is urged down the precipice by the falling herd. The Indians then select as much meat as they wish, and the rest is abandoned to the wolves, and creates a most dreadful stench. The

wolves which had been feasting on these carcasses were very fat, and so gentle that one of them was killed with a spontoon." \* \* \*

" May 30. The rain, which commenced last evening, continued with little intermission till eleven this morning, when, the high wind which accompanied it having abated, we set out. More rain has now fallen than we have had since the 1st of September last, and many circumstances indicated our approach to a climate differing considerably from that of the country through which we have been passing: the air of the open country is astonishingly dry and pure. Observing that the case of our sextant, though perfectly seasoned, shrunk, and the joints opened, we tried several experiments, by which it appeared that a table-spoonful of water, exposed in a saucer to the air, would evaporate in thirty-six hours, when the mercury did not stand higher than the temperate point at the greatest heat of the day. The river, notwithstanding the rain, is much clearer than it was a few days past; but we advance with great labour and difficulty, the rapid current, the ripples, and rocky points rendering the navigation more embarrassing than even that of yesterday." \* \* \* "On ascending the hills near the river, one of the party found that there was snow mixed with the rain on the heights, a little back of which the country becomes perfectly level on both sides of the river. There is now no timber on the hills, and only a few scattered cottonwood-trees, ash, box-alder, and willows along the water. In the course of the day we passed several encampments of Indians, the most recent of which seemed to have been evacuated about five weeks since; and, from



the several apparent dates, we supposed that they were formed by a band of about one hundred lodges, who were travelling slowly up the river. Although no part of the Missouri from the Minnetarees to this place exhibits signs of permanent settlements, yet none seem exempt from the transient visits of hunting-parties. We know that the Minnetarees of the Missouri extend their excursions on the south side of the river as high as the Yellowstone, and the Assiniboin visit the northern side, most probably as high as Porcupine River. All the lodges between that place and the Rocky Mountains we supposed to belong to the Minnetarees of Fort de Prairie, who live on the south fork of the Saskashawan."

They had to encounter the same obstructions and difficulties the following day. "At nine miles," says the journalist, "we came to a high wall of black rock, rising from the water's edge on the south above the cliffs of the river: this continued about a quarter of a mile, and was succeeded by a high open plain, till the height of between two and three hundred feet high, rose on the same side. Three miles farther, a wall of the same kind, about two hundred feet high and twelve in thickness, appeared to the north.

"These hills and river cliffs exhibit a most extraordinary and romantic appearance. They rise in most places nearly perpendicular from the river, to the height of between two and three hundred feet, and are formed of very white sandstone, so soft as to yield readily to the action of water, but in the upper part of which lie imbedded two or three thin horizontal strata of white freestone unaffected by the rain; and on the top is a dark rich loam, which forms

a gradually ascending plain, from a mile to a mile and a half in extent, when the hills again rise abruptly to the height of about three hundred feet more. In trickling down the cliffs the water has worn the soft sandstone into a thousand grotesque figures, among which, with a little fancy, may be discerned elegant ranges of freestone buildings, with columns variously sculptured, and supporting long and elegant galleries, while the parapets are adorned with statuary. On a nearer approach they represent every form of elegant ruins: columns, some with pedestals and capitals entire, others mutilated and prostrate, and some rising pyramidally over each other till they terminate in a sharp point. These are varied by niches, alcoves, and the customary appearances of desolated magnificence. The delusion is increased by the number of martins which have built their globular nests in the niches, and hover over these columns as in our country they are accustomed to frequent large stone structures.

“As we advance there seems no end to the visionary enchantment which surrounds us. In the midst of this fantastic scenery are vast ranges of walls, which seem the productions of art, so regular is the workmanship. They rise perpendicularly from the river, sometimes to the height of one hundred feet, varying in thickness from one to twelve feet, being equally broad at the top as below. The stones of which they are formed are black, thick, and durable, and composed of a large portion of earth, intermixed and cemented with a small quantity of sand, and a considerable proportion of talc or quartz. These stones are almost invariably regular parallelpipeds of unequal sizes in the wall, but equally deep, and

laid regularly in ranges over each other like bricks, each breaking and covering the interstice of the two on which it rests. But, though the perpendicular interstice be destroyed, the horizontal one extends entirely through the whole work. The stones, too, are proportioned to the thickness of the wall in which they are employed, being largest in the thickest walls. The thinner walls are composed of a single depth of the parallelopiped, while the thicker ones consist of two or more depths. These walls pass the river at several places, rising from the water's edge much above the sandstone bluffs, which they seem to penetrate; thence they cross in a straight line, on either side of the river, the plains, over which they tower to the height of from ten to seventy feet, until they lose themselves in the second range of hills. Sometimes they run parallel in several ranges near to each other, sometimes intersect each other at right angles, and have the appearance of walls of ancient houses or gardens."

\* \* \* "We saw, but could not procure, a beautiful fox of a colour varied with orange, yellow, white, and black, rather smaller than the common fox of this country, and about the same size as the red fox of the United States. The river to-day has been from about one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty yards wide, with but little timber."

\* \* \* "June 1. The weather was cloudy, with a few drops of rain. As we proceeded by the aid of our cord, we found the river cliffs and bluffs not so high as yesterday, and the country more level. The timber, too, is in greater abundance on the banks, though there is no wood in the high ground; coal, however, appears in the bluffs. The river is from

two hundred to two hundred and fifty yards wide, the current more gentle, the water becoming still clearer, and fewer rocky points and shoals than we met yesterday, though those which we did encounter were equally difficult to pass. Game is by no means in such plenty as below: all that we obtained were one bighorn and a mule-deer, though we saw in the plain a quantity of buffalo." \* \* \* "In the plains near the river are the chokecherry, yellow and red currant-bushes, as well as the wild rose and prickly pear, both of which are now in bloom. From the tops of the river hills, which are lower than usual, we enjoyed a delightful view of the rich fertile plains on both sides, in many places extending from the river cliffs to a great distance back." \* \* \* "A mountain, or part of the North Mountain, approaches the river within eight or ten miles, bearing north from our encampments of last evening; and this morning a range of high mountains, bearing southwest from us, and apparently running to the west ward, are seen at a great distance, covered with snow. In the evening we had a little more rain.

"June 2. The wind blew violently last night, and a slight shower of rain fell, but this morning was fair. The current of the river is strong but regular, the timber increases in quantity, the low grounds become more level and extensive, and the bluffs are lower than before. As the game is very abundant, we think it necessary to begin a collection of hides for the purpose of making a leathern boat, which we intend constructing shortly. The hunters, who were out the greater part of the day, brought in six elk, two buffalo, two mule-deer, and a bear. This last

animal had nearly cost us the lives of two of our hunters, who were together when he attacked them. One of them narrowly escaped being caught, and the other, after running a considerable distance, concealed himself in some thick bushes, and, while the bear was in quick pursuit of his hiding-place, his companion came up, and fortunately shot the animal through the head."

\* \* \* "At the distance of eighteen miles from our encampment, we came to for the night in a handsome low cottonwood plain on the south, where we remained for the purpose of taking some celestial observations during the night, and of examining in the morning a large river which comes in opposite to us. Accordingly, at an early hour,

"June 3, we crossed and fixed our camp at the point formed by the junction of this river with the Missouri. It now became an interesting question, which of these two streams is what the Minnetarees call Ahmateahza, or the Missouri, which they describe as approaching very near to the Columbia. On our right decision much of the fate of the expedition depends; since if, after ascending to the Rocky Mountains or beyond them, we should find that the river we were following did not come near the Columbia, and be obliged to return, we should not only lose the travelling season, two months of which had already elapsed, but probably dishearten the men so much as to induce them either to abandon the enterprise, or yield us a cold obedience instead of the warm and zealous support which they had hitherto afforded us. We determined, therefore, to examine well before we decided on our future course; and for this purpose



despatched two canoes with three men up each of the streams, with orders to ascertain the width, depth, and rapidity of the current, so as to judge of their comparative bodies of water. At the same time parties were sent out by land to penetrate the country, and discover from the rising grounds, if possible, the distant bearings of the two rivers; and all were directed to return towards evening.

“When they were gone we ascended together the high grounds in the fork of these two rivers, whence we had a very extensive prospect of the surrounding country. On every side it was spread into one vast plain, covered with verdure, in which innumerable herds of buffalo were roaming, attended by their enemies the wolves: some flocks of elk were also seen, and the solitary antelope were scattered, with their young, over the face of the plain. To the south was a range of lofty mountains, which we supposed to be a continuation of the South Mountains, stretching themselves from southwest to northwest, and terminating abruptly about southwest from us. These were partially covered with snow; but at a great distance behind them was a more lofty ridge, completely covered with snow, which seemed to follow the same direction as the first, reaching from west to the north of northwest, where their snowy tops were blended with the horizon.”

The parties which had been sent out to ascertain the character of the two rivers farther on, in order to determine which was the true Missouri, returned in the evening, but without any information that seemed to settle the point.

Under these circumstances, it became necessary

that there should be a more thorough exploration, and the next morning Captains Lewis and Clarke set out at the head of two separate parties, the former to examine the north, and the latter the south fork. In his progress Captain Lewis and his party were frequently obliged to quit the course of the river and cross the plains and hills, but he did not lose sight of its general direction, and carefully took the bearings of the distant mountains. On the morning of the third day he became convinced that this river pursued a course too far north for his contemplated route to the Pacific, and he accordingly determined to return, but judged it advisable to wait till noon, that he might obtain a meridian altitude. In this, however, he was disappointed, owing to the state of the weather. Much rain had fallen, and their return was somewhat difficult, and not unattended with danger, as the following incident, which occurred on the 7th, will show.

“In passing along the side of a bluff at a narrow pass, thirty yards in length, Captain Lewis slipped, and, but for a fortunate recovery by means of his spontoon, would have been precipitated into the river over a precipice of about ninety feet. He had just reached a spot where, by the assistance of his spontoon, he could stand with tolerable safety, when he heard a voice behind him cry out, ‘Good God, captain, what shall I do?’ He turned instantly, and found it was Windsor, who had lost his foothold about the middle of the narrow pass, and had slipped down to the very verge of the precipice, where he lay on his belly, with his right arm and leg over it, while with the other leg and arm he was with difficulty

holding on, to keep himself from being dashed to pieces below. His dreadful situation was instantly perceived by Captain Lewis, who, stifling his alarm, calmly told him that he was in no danger; that he should take his knife out of his belt with the right hand, and dig a hole in the side of the bluff to receive his right foot. With great presence of mind he did this, and then raised himself on his knees. Captain Lewis then told him to take off his moccasins, and come forward on his hands and knees, holding the knife in one hand and his rifle in the other. He immediately crawled in this way till he came to a secure spot. The men who had not attempted this passage were ordered to return, and wade the river at the foot of the bluff, where they found the water breast high. This adventure taught them the danger of crossing the slippery heights of the river; but as the plains were intersected by deep ravines almost as difficult to pass, they continued down the stream, sometimes in the mud of the low grounds, sometimes up to their arms in water, and, when it became too deep to wade, they cut footholds with their knives in the sides of the banks. In this way they travelled through the rain, mud, and water; and, having made only eighteen miles during the whole day, encamped in an old Indian lodge of sticks, which afforded them a dry shelter. Here they cooked part of six deer they had killed in the course of their route, and, having eaten the only morsel they had tasted during the whole day, slept comfortably on some willow boughs."

## NOTE.

The return of Captain Lewis; His narrow escape. Captain Clarke's Researches. The Escape of Captain Clarke and his Party; Meeting and Hunting with various Indian Tribes and further daring and startling adventures, truthfully and interestingly told in the volume entitled "**CAPTAINS LEWIS AND CLARKE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY**"—**Daring and Successful Explorers of the American Northwest Territory.**

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